

# Annual Report 2012

April 2012 to March 2013



Japan National Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International

(DPI-Japan)

## Abstract of DPI-Japan's Annual Report 2012

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### 1. Earthquake Relief Activities

Two years has passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, but the serious situation surrounding persons with disabilities has left unsolved. The Relief Headquarters for Persons with Disabilities of Tohoku-Kanto Great Earthquake (**hereinafter referred to as** the Headquarters) has continued the relief activities by persons with disabilities. As emergency support finished, the Focal Relief Centers in disaster affected areas, namely Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. are now concentrating efforts on individual support and trying to become a new social resource. The Headquarters has made up a mid-term plan until March of 2015(FY2014) to promote sustainable activities of the Focal Relief Centers. AJU, a membership organization of DPI-Japan, is also continuing its relief activity in Kamaishi, Iwate, to be a new social resource center.

Whereas, it is becoming difficult to secure personal assistants in Fukushima because many personal assistants left their home avoiding radiation damage from Nuclear power plant accident. Persons with disabilities, personal assistants and service providers are all weary and still living in unstable conditions. The Headquarters compiled a documentary film: namely, "Those who are left behind – Persons with disabilities in 3.11" to popularize the condition of persons with disabilities in that huge disaster. DVDs are on sale and public viewing has been promoted.

### 2. International Cooperation

The 15th DPI Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly was held in Incheon, South Korea in October, 2012. About 600 people from 37 countries including some 100 from Japan joined in the assembly.

At the Regional Council meeting members, simultaneously held in Incheon, Shoji Nakanishi, the executive board member of DPI-Japan was reelected as the DPI-AP Chairperson. At the North-East Asia sub-regional Meeting also organized simultaneously by Kim Daesong, the chairperson of DPI Korea who was elected as DPI North-East Asia sub-regional chairperson, South Korea, China, Mongolia and Japan reported each effort toward ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). At United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) High level Intergovernmental Meeting, which was held right after the DPI Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly in Incheon, the final review of the 2nd Asia-Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons 2003-2012 was done and then the New Asia-Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022 was adopted.

In September 2012, the training course under the name of "Mainstreaming of Persons

with Disabilities for African Countries - Independent Living Program” which was entrusted from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was conducted. Total 11 trainees including leaders with disabilities and government officials from 7 countries participated in this training. JICA grass-root cooperation project “HIV/AIDS education for persons with disabilities through capacity development of deaf organization (Tanpopo Project) Phase 2” in Brazil finished in March, 2013. This project has achieved a big success such as that the federal government issued a formal notice that the health centers in all areas in Brazil support the activities of this project.

In October, DPI-Japan accepted trainees from Central Asian countries for one week in Tokyo. They were the trainees of JICA regional training that DPI-Hokkaido Local Assembly (DPI-Hokkaido) entrusted, named “Promotion of mainstreaming and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in Central Asia.” And as in every year, we also accepted the trainees from Asia who participated in Duskin leadership training. Promoting global discussions on post-2015 development goals, we suggested the needs of inclusion of persons with disabilities into new development strategies through the collaboration with Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Japan and participation in the ESCAP and United Nation Development Plan (UNDP) Northeast Asia Youth Forum.

### 3. Political Participation

The Committee for Disability Policy Reform established in the Cabinet Office in 2009 was reprogrammed as “the Committee for Disability Policy” based on the revised Basic Law for Disabled Persons in 2011. More than half of the Committee members are persons with disabilities and their families, and three are board members from DPI-Japan. Discussions on a new Basic Plan of Persons with Disabilities have been done since the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in July, 2012 and the Committee’s proposal was completed in December, 2012. The Panel for Anti-discrimination Law was re-organized under the Committee and compiled its conclusion in a proposal made in September, 2012.

In March, 2013 the ruling party’s (Liberal Democratic Party and New Komeito) working team issued “Main Topics and Basic Guideline for legislation of Anti-Discrimination Law for Persons with Disabilities.” On April 26, 2013, the draft of Act to Eliminate Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities was approved in the Cabinet. While some issues such as operation of the Act and future review still remain, DPI-Japan is promoting the draft act to be enacted during the current Diet session through lobbying and having assemblies in Councilors’ Hall.

Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities was established in June, 2012. DPI-Japan has made efforts on various issues to actualize “the framework proposal” which was submitted by the Panel for Comprehensive Welfare Service in August, 2011. The new service system, which starts from fiscal year 2014, will cover persons who are not eligible in existing service system and expand users of comprehensive personal assistance

service for persons with severe disabilities.

With a financial support from Kirin Foundation, a report was published, titled “New Approach to Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Person-centered Support” on implementation and review of the Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with Disabilities. Referring to the payment process and standards at pioneering municipal governments based on various cases of persons with severe disabilities who are living in communities, this research result is expected to be utilized in the future review.

#### 4. Research and Development

As five years has passed since the establishment of “The Act on Promotion of Smooth Transportation, etc. of Elderly Persons, Disabled Persons, etc. (New Barrier Free law),” experts and researchers opened consultations to review the Law without participation of persons with disabilities. DPI-Japan, which has been leading accessibility movements, strongly protested against this situation and launched the Barrier Free Panel as an internal body aiming to reinforce and continue to improve accessibility. In November 2012, we had a negotiation with Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and urged claims of various issues in areas of railway, bus and air craft. It included rejection of handle-type electric wheelchairs in getting into train, and non-provision of permission-sticker for foreigners who use them and review of the transportation facilitation standard. Besides, the 6<sup>th</sup> Training program for persons with disabilities on Barrier free (Barrier free training), which has been funded by the Foundation for Promoting Personal Mobility and Ecological Transportation, was held in Kumamoto.

As for education, DPI-Japan, taking a position to aim at inclusive education realization, lobbied the Special Committee for the special support education and issued an opinion paper on enrollment decision procedure and in-school reasonable accommodation in collaboration with Japan Disability Forum (JDF). In regards to the Cabinet Order of School Education Act revision, we also made an appeal to the Japanese Parliamentary Group on the Inclusive Education in collaboration with the Network to Promote Ratification of CRPD and Inclusive Education Network for Realization of Inclusive Education (Inclusive Network). Government’s Advisory Committee on Advanced Education for Students with Disabilities completed a report (the 1<sup>st</sup> Conclusion) in December, 2012.

Three panels established by Government in November 2011 to study the Disabled People Employment Promotion Act revision issued a report in August 2012. In response to this report, consultation started at the Working Group for Employment of Persons with Disabilities under the Labour Policy Council. DPI-Japan has discussed with the council members. As the remaining issues in the Comprehensive Support Law for Persons with

Disabilities review after 3 years, “Various ways and places to work” has also been discussed in our annual assembly in June 2012 and DPI Disability Policy Discussion Seminar in December 2012.

DPI-Japan also took several actions toward income security for persons with disabilities against the Parliament trend. Besides the cooperative action with relevant organizations on foreigners with disabilities with no pension, at the national assembly, we adopted the statement “Urgent appeal to oppose the family duty reinforcement in Public Assistance Act” in response to the Act revision, triggered in Public Assistance bashing by the media. In collaboration with the opposition movement namely “Stop! Reduction in Public Assistance Standard”, we joined in signature collection campaign, assembly in the Councilors’ Hall and protest rally.

The Parliamentary Association for the legislation for death with dignity law submitted “the draft law to respect terminal patient’s will” in March 2012. DPI-Japan set up “the Group to oppose the legislation for death with dignity law” in collaboration with other organizations in August 2012 and raised objections through addressing opinions at the Association’s public hearing, questionnaire counting from the council members and conducting the study sessions. Related to this movement, we resisted the prenatal diagnosis at collecting public comments against the draft guideline on new prenatal diagnosis prepared by the Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, suggesting that the testing might increase prejudice and discrimination against persons with disabilities.

DPI Network of Women with Disabilities published the survey report “Challenges of Women with disabilities – multiple difficulties in their lives” in April 2012 and actively conducted report sessions and assemblies in Councilors’ Hall.

The remarkable decision of the court was made with announcement that deprivation of rights to elect from adult ward is illegal. From the perspective of disqualifying clauses on disability, DPI-Japan addressed a statement to request the government not to appeal. While the Road Traffic Act is being revised in regard to disease and disability, we actively joined the campaign against the law revision conducted by Japanese Epilepsy Association. Moreover, we in February, 2013, made a letter of inquiry with Citizens' Committee to Eliminate Disqualifying Clauses on Disability to Niigata prefectural government, which recruited part-time employees with disabilities, and asked them to delete one of the applicants’ conditions (No provision of braille / sign language interpretation, self-commuting and work without assistant).

DPI-Hokkaido cooperated with the adoption for “the Ordinance to promote Advocacy and Inclusive Society for Persons with Disabilities and Children with Disabilities” and also established the advocacy center for persons with disabilities to utilize the ordinance.

Simultaneously with the annual assembly, DPI-Tokyo local committee conducted a

seminar with the committee members of the Panel for Anti-discrimination Law.

In Aichi prefecture, Aichi Disability Forum (ADF) made a great deal of contribution to adaption of opinion papers on Anti-discrimination Law legislation in Aichi prefecture and Nagoya City.

## 5. Other Activities

DPI Advocacy Center of Persons with Disabilities handled 1,159 cases in fiscal year 2012. Since October, when Persons with Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act was in force, a number of cases increased. The center has continuously supported the court case of a person with disability who was refused to use an internet café since 2011. The case was decided in favor of the plaintiff.

DPI Japan has been doing its publicity action through quarterly “Voices of Our Own”, for providing latest information of various issues concerning disability movements. Our webpage, mail magazine and blog have also been utilized for accumulating, sharing and providing information such as our proposals and/or opinion statements.

Braille Printing Division took orders from various companies and organizations including DPOs, Labor Unions, the Committee for Disability Policy Reform, universities and local governments. These works played important roles of information accessibility for persons with visual impairments. DPI-Japan edited and published a book named “A first step: Revised Basic Law for Disabled Persons – Change in community” on April 20, 2012.

At the DPI-Japan annual assembly in 2012, it was decided that multiple difficulties of women with disabilities is our priority issue and three female leaders with disabilities join in the board of DPI-Japan as “Special Steering Committee member” to improve the gender balance in our Special Steering Committee.

Since the establishment of “The Relief Headquarters for Persons with Disabilities of Tohoku-Kanto Great Earthquake”, the Boeing Company, Chicago, USA, decided in April 2012 to support the Focal Relief Centers’ activities and welfare vehicle purchase. For stable finance for activities and organization operation of DPI-Japan, we made effort to increase donation and support members in collaboration with group members and concerned groups.