**Abstract of DPI-Japan's Annual Report 2021 :April 2021 to March 2022**

**General Report**

We worked on issues including barrier-free measures, lobbying to revise the Law for Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "Comprehensive Support Law"), and support for the Eugenic Protection Law trial.

**\*On CRPD**

The Japan Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (JCDR) constructive dialogue scheduled for the summer of 2020 was postponed due to the COVID-19, and the prospects remained uncertain. As a member of the Japan Disability Forum (JDF), we have been preparing parallel reports for the summary findings. In the early summer of 2021, the Japanese government's draft answers to the preliminary questions were released, and a meeting was held to exchange opinions between the Japanese government and JDF. The DPI Japan Conference (DPI), as the secretariat organization, was actively involved in this process.

**\*On the amendment of the Law on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities**

The bill submitted to the Diet in 2021. During deliberations at the House of Councilors' Cabinet Committee, The Executive Director Sato presented our views as a witness, and the bill was passed. In the fall, the Committee on Policy for Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as the "Policy Committee") held hearings with organizations of persons with disabilities, business organizations, and local governments, and discussions have begun on the revision of the basic policy. Although no specific date has been set for the enforcement of the law, which will take effect "on the date prescribed in the Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding three years from the date of promulgation (June 4, 2021)," it is expected that the basic policy will be revised during FY2022, and the corresponding guidelines for each ministry and agency will be revised in 2023.

**\*On the Revision of the Comprehensive Support Law and efforts toward deinstitutionalization**

Toward the revision of the Comprehensive Support Law, we raised our opinions at the hearing of the Committee on Persons with Disabilities of the Social Security Council (hereinafter referred to as the Committee on Persons with Disabilities of the Social Security Council) and made joint requests in cooperation with related organizations, and achieved a certain reflection of our opinions in the Committee's interim report issued in December.

In December, the UN CRPD held a consultation on deinstitutionalization in various regions to prepare guidelines for deinstitutionalization, which was held in May for the Asia-Pacific region, in which DP participated and raised opinions. In December, an annotated outline of the "Guidelines for the Deinstitutionalization of Persons with Disabilities (including in Emergency Situations)" was published.

In addition, a project to create an online model for community transition Program, "Project for Building an Online Community Transition Support System Model in the Age of with COVID 19" was implemented.

**Initiatives for Barrier-Free Improvement of public transportation** **(the Barrier-Free Subcommittee)**

**\*On station announcements**

It was found that disabled women were being victimized by molesters and stalkers due to station announcements when assisting wheelchair users and others to get on and off the train. In August, railway operators from all over Japan gathered to hear directly from the DPI about the actual situation and demanded improvements. In response to the DPI's request, train operators have begun to consider switching to a method other than announcements.

**\*New Shinkansen and revision of barrier-free standards for limited express trains**

In February 2021, a request was made to then Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Akaha, and a review of barrier-free standards for limited express trains has also begun. In March, a "Meeting for Exchange of Opinions on Barrier-Free Measures in Limited-Express Trains" was launched by disabled persons' groups, operators, and MLIT, and after nine rounds of discussions, the new standards for limited express trains were revised in March 2022, raising the standards to the same level as those of Shinkansen trains. The new standards will come into effect in spring 2023, but the new limited express trains to be introduced by JR Tokai in 2022 will be based on the new standards, and JR West is planning to introduce a new type of "Limited Express Izumo" train in 2024.

**Initiatives for Barrier-Free Education (the Inclusive Education Subcommittee)**

**\*Public Elementary and Junior High Schools**

In 2020, the Law Concerning the Promotion of Smooth Mobility for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities (hereinafter referred to as "Barrier-Free Law") will be revised.

However, a number of local governments have expressed their opposition to the installation of elevators, saying that it would cost too much money, that they would not install elevators because it was an effort requirement, or that caterpillar-type stair lifts would be sufficient. In response, we submitted an urgent request and exchanged opinions with Mr. Wanibuchi, Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, in September, and in November, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) issued an administrative communication "Measures for Barrier-Free School Facilities," which included "establishment of consultation counter," "online seminar," "preparation of case study collection The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) issued an administrative communication titled "Measures for Barrier-Free Facilities in Schools, etc.," which clearly stated that the scope of elevators assumed by the government does not include "simple elevators (caterpillar type stairway elevators), etc.

**Issue of Forced Sterilization Issues under the Eugenic Protection Law**

The series of eugenic protection law trials that began in January 2018 when a woman with intellectual disabilities in Miyagi Prefecture filed a claim for state compensation continued to lose cases on the grounds of the exclusion period, but the Osaka High Court decision in February 2022 and the Tokyo High Court decision in March both changed the first instance decision, declared the former eugenic protection law unconstitutional, and ordered the government to pay damages to The Osaka High Court ruling in February 2022 and the Tokyo High Court ruling in March The court ruled that the so-called eugenic clause in the Eugenic Protection Law, which permits forced sterilization of persons with certain disabilities or diseases based on eugenic ideology, is unconstitutional because its legislative purpose is based on discriminatory ideology and lacks legitimacy, and the means to achieve the purpose are extremely inhumane and violate Articles 13 and 14, paragraph 1 of the Constitution. DPI has worked with defense lawyers and related organizations to block the appeals, but in each case the government appealed to the Supreme Court.