

The New-Old and Social Participation

In 2010, a post-WWII generation (born after 1945) reached age 65, and the elderly will account for more than 25% of the Japanese population. Being recipients of post-war democratic education, the post-WWII generation will constitute a new generation of the elderly whose values are different from those of their older peers.

Japanese people have long assumed that once one grows old, he/she will retire from work, retire from the forefront of the society and become dependent on the family and society. The new generation of the elderly, however, is capable of actively contributing to the society and many desire to do so.

In a society where elderly people constitute a large portion of the population, it is not practical for them to be dependant on society without contributing back simply because they are elderly. Such thinking is tantamount to the denial of their potential and agism.

This new conception of the elderly as active contributors to society was expressed in ‘General Principles Concerning the Measures for the Aged Society’ formulated in 2002. It is summed up in the following three points:

- 1) A fair and energetic society where people can be ensured of the opportunity to participate in diverse social activities or work throughout their lives.
- 2) The formation of a community based on both independence and social connectedness.
- 3) An affluent society where people can live peacefully and with fulfillment throughout their lives.

In a new framework of an unprecedented super-aged society, it is hoped that the elderly will actively participate in the society and even be the driving force of the society.

Appendixes

- 1. List of Policies
- 2. Resources Related to Aging Society

Appendixes

1. List of Policies

(1) *General Principles Concerning Measures for the Aged Society*

<http://www8.cao.go.jp/kourei/english/measure/e-taiko2.html>

As social structure and the everyday lives of citizens in Japan are foreseen to face great change owing to the rapid progress of population aging, the government presented guidelines for measures for aged society by stipulating the General Principles Concerning Measures for the Aged Society in 2002.

The Principles states that it has the goal of building a society where people can feel happy and proud to have lived a long life, and measures are to be implemented to constantly review the social system, support individual independence, and familial roles, and ensure sound development of the economy and stable improvement of people's living conditions through an appropriate combination of self, mutual and public support, in order to maintain its vitality with a spirit of solidarity as well.

Following these Principles, related comprehensive measures are to be implemented towards building an image of the coming aged society which would be achieved as our goal, by instituting challenges to be addressed on cross-sector basis.

(2) *Law Concerning Stabilization of Employment of Older Persons*

<http://www.jil.go.jp/english/laborinfo/library/Laws.htm>

As stated in the General Principles Concerning Measures for the Aged Society, ensuring of work opportunity throughout people's lives are the source of vitality of society and individuals. Although there is no law that prohibits gender discrimination in Japan, the law promoting employment of older people was introduced in 1971, with partial revisions made in April 2006.

The revised law requires employers to take one of the following measures by 2013 :

- 1) To gradually raise mandatory retirement age to 65 ;

- 2) To abolish mandatory retirement age; and
- 3) To introduce some system(s) to ensure continuous employment by measures such as reemployment.

(3) *The Elder Abuse Prevention and Caregiver Support Law*

http://longevity.ilcjapan.org/t_stories/0703.html

The Elder Abuse Prevention and Caregiver Support Law went into effect in April 2006 in Japan. The Law defines types of elder abuse and sets forth a reporting system for both domestic and institutional elder abuse cases. It also lays down responsibilities of the national and local governments for elder abuse prevention and caregiver support.

The main purpose of this law is “early detection and early management.”

- 1) Defines and categorizes elder abuse for the first time in legislative history;
- 2) Clarifies the responsibilities of the national and local governments, designating the municipal government as the central agency in charge of elder abuse prevention;
- 3) Establishes the mandatory reporting system for both domestic and institutional abuse cases; and
- 4) Emphasizes the importance of caregiver support.

(4) *Adult Guardianship System*

A system that protects the people with insufficient judgment ability caused by dementia, intellectual disability, and psychiatric disability, etc. who, therefore do not have adequate capacity for property management and the juristic act of contract.

The system is classified into two categories :

1) *Statutory Guardianship System*

The family court designates a guardian of an adult whose judgment ability has already been declined or lost; and,

2) *Voluntary Guardianship System*

Advanced commissioned contract is made in preparation for capacity lack in future, between a voluntary guardian and the person in question.

Appendixes

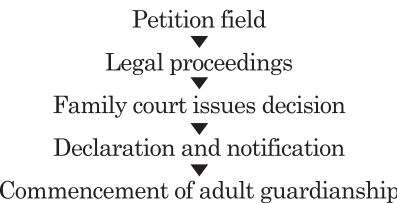
■How the Adult Guardianship System Works■

* Statutory Guardianship System

A system by which the family court designates a guardian when the prospective ward specifically lacks the decision-making faculties to designate appropriate guardians to manage various aspects of his or her affairs. The guardianship consists of estate management, personal management, etc., on behalf of the ward. Depending on the degree of impairment of decision-making faculties, the following three arrangements are possible:

Possible Arrangement	Ward	Degree of Impairment
Assistance	Assistee (Assistant)	Slightly impaired
Protection & Assistance	Protectoo (Protector)	Severely impaired
Adult Guardianship	Adult Guardian	Fully impaired

[Steps to Commencement of Guardianship]



* Voluntary Guardianship System

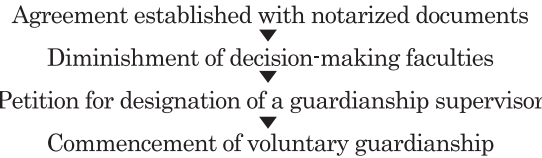
Proactive designation of a voluntary guardian to handle estate management or other responsibilities. Once the family court recognizes diminished decision-making faculties, the voluntary guardian takes up his or her duties.

However, the guardian must be supervised by a guardianship supervisor designated by the family court pursuant to the petition filed by the ward, the ward’s spouse or other appropriate party.

<Voluntary Guardianship Agreement>

An agreement is established using a notarized document of set format which registers the guardian(s). The scope of the responsibilities entrusted to the guardian(s) is specified according to the wishes of the prospective wards, as in the following example: management of savings, signing of leases on real estate, etc., disposition of inheritance, signing of agreements for care services, enrollment in care facilities, etc.

[Steps to Commencement of Guardianship]



2. Resources Related to Aging Society

National Government

- * **Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW)**
[http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/index.html]
- * **Cabinet Office (CAO)**
[http://www.cao.go.jp/index-e.html]
- * **Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications**
[http://www.stat.go.jp/english/index.htm]

Statistics & Research Institutes

- * **National Institute of Population and Social Security Research**
[http://www.ipss.go.jp/index-e.html]
- * **Health and Welfare Statistics Association**
[http://www.hws-kyokai.or.jp/english-index.html]
- * **National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology**
[http://www.ncgg.go.jp/english/]
- * **The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training**
[http://www.jil.go.jp/english/index.html]
- * **Institute for Health Economics and Policy**
[http://www.ihep.jp/english/index.html]
- * **Statistical Data /Tokyo Metropolitan Gov.**
[http://www.toukei.metro.tokyo.jp/homepage/ENGLISH.htm]
- * **Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology**
[http://www.tmig.or.jp/index.html]

NGOs

- * **International Longevity Center (Japan)**
[http://www.ilc-japan.org/english.html]
- * **Japan Aging Research Center**
[http://www.jarc.net/int/]
- * **Sawayaka Welfare Foundation**
[http://www.sawayakazaidan.or.jp/english/index.html]
- * **Women's Association for the Better Aging Society**
[http://www7.ocn.ne.jp/~wabas/eng/menu.html]
- * **Alzheimer's Association Japan**
[http://www2f.biglobe.ne.jp/~boke/boke2-e.htm]