

New Policies to Cope with the Declining Birthrate

June 20, 2006

Decision by the Declining Fertility Society Policy Council

2005 was notable in that for the first time since records on population trends began in 1899, the number of births fell below the number of deaths. This turnaround signified the beginning of a decreasing population trend for Japanese society. In 2005 the number of births stood at 1.06 million and the total fertility rate was recorded as 1.25, both of these figures marking historic lows.

If this declining birthrate trend continues, the process of depopulation will further accelerate. It is projected that by the middle of the 21st century total population could fall below 100 million, and by 2100 the population would stand at less than half its current level. The aging of the population is also an issue that continues to develop and we are faced with the extreme prospect a society with both a declining birthrate and aging population in which eventually one in three persons will be over the age of 65.

It is essential to recognize now that a rapidly declining population will not only have an impact on economic, industrial and social security issues, but that it is an issue intertwined with the very existence and viability of Japan as a country and Japanese society.

1. Perspectives for New Policies to Cope with the Declining Birthrate

Since the mid 1990s the Government of Japan has been engaged in promotion efforts to respond to the issue of the declining birthrate. These efforts have been based around such initiatives as the “Angel Plan” and the “New Angel Plan.” In 2003 two new laws were formulated, the Basic Law on Measures for a Society with a Declining Birthrate and the Law for Promotion of Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation. These developments were followed in FY2005 with further efforts to respond to the declining birthrate, with the compilation of General Principles Concerning Measures for the Society with a Declining Birthrate and the Child and Childcare Plan which was a specific action plan based on the General Principles. The time has now come, however, to seriously accept that the measures the Government of

Japan has advanced to date, are no longer sufficient to reverse the depopulation trend caused by a declining birthrate.

With a view to reversing the downward trend in the birthrate, government must work to enhance and strengthen measures to respond in a comprehensive way to the declining birthrate issue. This includes redefining societal awareness on the reasons behind the declining birthrate, promoting a reawakening concerning the importance of the family unit and addressing the underlying factors that are causing concern among the younger generation about raising a family. These issues must be addressed if a turnaround is to be achieved. Although the second baby boomer generation may still be in their 30s, looking five years ahead to the future it is evident that a swift response is now called for.

(1) Reforming awareness in society as a whole

If any improvement is to be achieved in the birthrate, it is essential to promote a variety of measures in an integrated manner. As the General Principles Concerning Measures for the Society with a Declining Birthrate make clear, what is critical to achieve greater effectiveness in all measures is to strengthen ties within the family unit and in the community.

In the process of promoting comprehensive measures to respond to the declining birthrate it is important to give life to and nurture the next generation and ensure that the importance of family is understood. It is one of the fundamental responsibilities of society to celebrate the birth of a child, and to care for and watch over all children. The family unit exists in a variety of forms, but if a societal structure is in place in which children are nurtured within the family unit and the family itself is supported by the community, then various support measures that are made available will truly be effective. It is important that national and local governments, companies and local communities cooperate together in efforts to reform awareness in society as a whole.

(2) Enhancing child- and family-centric measures

The younger generation today is experiencing strong feelings of burden—either economic or psychological—that are causing young people to hesitate in starting a family. Reasons for this hesitancy could be the large economic burden of raising a family, the difficulty in balancing family and work life, or general concerns about parenting and child-rearing. It is incumbent on government to respond to the wishes of people who are seeking to start a family, and enhance support measures that will create

an environment in which parents can bring children into the world with peace of mind and raise their children with ease. Child-rearing and parenting support efforts should not merely aim to reduce the burden on parents, but should also seek to strengthen family functions and family bonds by helping to create robust parent-child relations and enabling parents to experience the joys of raising a family. Additionally it is necessary to harmonize work and life balance, reforming working practices that excessively restrict parents' ability to engage in domestic affairs and child-raising, and increasing the time married couples and parents with children can spend with each other.

Families engaged in raising their children have a variety of needs and concerns as their children's growth progresses. Policies to Cope with the Declining Birthrate should, therefore, be compiled in a well-structured, comprehensive and multi-faceted manner, and advanced as a matter of priority in accordance with the following concepts.

While child-raising is primarily the responsibility of the family, those families engaged in raising children should expect to have the support of society as a whole, including national and local governments, companies and local communities.

Regardless of whether parents are working or not, in addition to supporting all families that are raising children, child-raising support measures should be enhanced and community support improved, including measures to assist in child-raising in the home and after school.

Working practices need to be revised, including those for men, to ensure that parents with children are not put in a disadvantageous position in the workplace due to their child-raising duties. Also, measures should be promoted that help to balance work and child-raising and ensure parents can spend sufficient time with their children during the early years of child-raising.

Comprehensive measures should be initiated, including measures to reduce economic burden, for families into which children are about to be born, or those engaged in nursing infants, as these times in the family life-cycle present many challenges in terms of work and family life and are also periods in which parents' economic resources may be under particular stress.

In addition to through-going efforts to ensure safety for school-age children, and measures to enhance a structure that can respond to pre-natal, post-natal and child-raising medical needs, support should be enhanced for families and children who are in need of special assistance.

2. Promoting New Policies to Cope with the Declining Birthrate

Based on the above perspectives it is evident that in addition to the steady promotion of the Child Care Plan that was first implemented in FY2005, it also necessary to: create comprehensive child-raising support measures that respond to the different stages of children's growth, from pregnancy and birth through to high school or university, and to reform working practices for parents. For these tasks, the following measures will be promoted.

The measures detailed below shall be considered in the budget formulation process for the FY2007 budget, for which the necessary funding will be procured as part of the comprehensive reform of revenue and expenditures.

Deliberation shall also be undertaken on the necessary measures that need to be taken in terms of taxation, from the perspective of promoting measures that respond to the declining birthrate.

(1) Child-raising support measures

I. Newborn and Infant Stage (from pregnancy and birth through to the nursing of infants)

In addition to reducing the cost burden on families of having a child (measures to) and promoting the development of an environment that enables births to take place in peace of mind, support shall also be provided to families who are nursing infants.

- Improvement of procedures for the lump-sum allowance for childbirth and nursing

- Reduction of the cost burden for medical expenses during pregnancy

- Expansion of public financial support for fertility treatment

- Ensuring thorough usage of and improvement in conditions for paid leave during initial stages of pregnancy

- Enhancement of obstetric medical services through the employment of more obstetricians, etc.

- Establishment of an extra allowance for infants within the child-support allowance system

- Creation of a childcare support network, including home visits to families engaged in the early stages of raising a family (those with newborns and infants)

II. Stage up to School Entry

To ensure that parents are able to engage in and experience the delights of child-raising assistance to families raising children will be provided as well as the enhancement of community childcare services.

- Enhancement of centers for child-raising support in the community, targeting all families

 - Further promotion of the Zero Waiting List Campaign

- Enhancement of childcare for sick and recuperating children, and children with disabilities, etc.

 - Enhancement of the pediatric healthcare system

- Look into revising the Law for Promotion of Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation, including the announcement of an Action Plan

- Enhancement and dissemination of system of child care leave and reduced working hours

- Promotion of childcare service provision to employees, including childcare facilities established within offices

 - Promotion of measures to prevent child accidents

- Enhancement of efforts to reduce the burden on parents or guardians for pre-school education

III. Primary School Stage

In addition to ensuring that children can spend after-school hours engaged in meaningful activities, safety will also be secured for children traveling to and from school, etc.

- Promotion of the After School Children's Plan (provisional name) in elementary schools nationwide

- Implementation of further safety measures for children while at school or on their commute to or from school, including the introduction of school buses

IV. Junior High, High School, and University Stage

In addition to reducing education-related costs, a student babysitter scheme will be promoted.

 - Improvement of scholarships, etc.

 - Recommendation of student babysitters, etc.

(2) Reform of working practices

In addition to promoting employment assistance measures for young people, equal

treatment for part-time workers, and the “Construction of an Enabling Structure to Reengage in Challenges,” whereby women would be provided with reemployment assistance, it is also necessary to reform existing working practices, including promotion of corporate efforts for child-raising support and revision of long working hours, etc.

- Employment assistance measures for young people

- Promotion of equal treatment for part-time workers

- Assistance measures for continuing employment or reemployment for women

- Promotion of corporate efforts for child-raising support

- Review of working practices, including revision of long working hours

- Promotion of a joint public-private movement to jointly promote child-raising assistance, including review of working practices

(3) Other important areas

- Consideration of a taxation system designed to assist those engaged in child-raising, etc.

- Promotion of foster parent and adoption system, including publicity activities to raise awareness

- Promotion of inter-generational exchange by utilizing retirees and elderly persons in the community as human resources

- Strengthening of measures to prevent child abuse and measures to support children in care

- Promotion of measures to encourage comprehensive self-help efforts in single-parent families, etc.

- Promotion of food education

- Assistance for family homes, and for situations in which three generations of one family live together or in close proximity

- Establishment of a certification system for marriage counseling services, etc.

3. Promoting a Nation-wide Movement

In tandem with strengthening and enhancing the specific assistance measures detailed in section 2. above, taking a long-term view, the government will work to develop a nation-wide movement, seeking to bring about a transformation in societal attitudes to the issue. The government will utilize publicity campaigns to implement such efforts as these detailed below.

(1) Nation-wide movement to revive family and community bonds

Establishment of a “Family Day” and a “Family Week”

National and local governments will hold events to promote family and community bonds

A nation-wide movement will promote reform of labor-management thinking concerning review of working practices

(2) Movement to take care of children and nurture respect for human life in society as a whole

Publicity efforts and dissemination of awareness concerning the maternity mark

Warnings concerning the distribution of harmful information and provision of useful information to children

Promoting understanding about the importance of human life and the family unit

The issue of a declining birthrate is one that requires us to fundamentally question the functions of our nation. In compiling and combining these various measures to respond to the declining birthrate it is vital that all stakeholders in society—including national and local governments, the workplace, the community, families and individuals—fully grasp their various responsibilities and roles. In this way, in addition to advancing active efforts that are premised on the importance of children and the family unit, further consideration must be given to future progress and enhancement of assistance measures.

Even given the stringent fiscal situation Japan currently faces, based on the recognition that measures to respond to the declining birthrate are a policy issue of the utmost importance to national fundamentals, for the future of Japan and the next generation the government will devote every effort to promote the various measures detailed herein with wisdom and innovation.

Materials

Promotion of New Policies to Cope with the Declining Birthrate

(1) Child-raising support measures

I. Newborn and Infant Stage (from pregnancy and birth through to the nursing of infants)

Policy	Outline	Ministry
(1) Improvement of procedures for the lump-sum allowance for childbirth and nursing	By making it possible to receive lump sums for childbirth and infancy on a proxy basis, the aim is to decrease the burden placed on the mother as regards procuring cash and to reduce the economic burden at the time of childbirth.	MHLW
(2) Reduction of the cost burden for medical expenses during pregnancy	By reducing the personal burden imposed by the cost of medical examinations during pregnancy, the aim is to ensure that women receive examinations and to promote the health of mother and child.	MHLW
(3) Expansion of public financial support for fertility treatment	Expansion of the system of support for fertility treatment.	MHLW
(4) Ensuring thorough usage of and improvement in conditions for paid leave during initial stages of pregnancy	Ensuring that more thorough methods are taken to manage the mother's health by providing more leave and shortening working hours during periods of poor physical condition during pregnancy, and relaxing commuting requirements. More efforts need to be taken especially as regards providing leave and stimulating an awareness of this question during the early stages of pregnancy.	MHLW
(5) Enhancement of obstetric medical services through the employment of more obstetricians, etc.	Efforts will be made to train more obstetricians and to improve the system of provision of obstetric care by concentrating and prioritizing obstetric care functions in the regions, creating a perinatal care network, etc. Efforts will also be made to enable women doctors to combine work and childrearing.	MHLW
(6) Establishment of an extra allowance for infants within the child-support allowance system	Addition of infant benefits during early infancy (especially children under the age of three) in order to reduce the burden on young households raising children.	MHLW
(7) Creation of a childcare support network, including home visits to	In order to alleviate concerns over childrearing and, where necessary, to encourage use of local childrearing support services and the provision of expert assistance, local authorities will send	MEXT, MHLW

families engaged in the early stages of raising a family (those with newborns and infants)	staff to all homes with children within a fixed period after the birth of a child, thereby ascertaining current living conditions and providing information about essential support services. Local authorities will also create a local childcare support network by registering childcare supporters and specific nurseries that can be consulted by people engaged in caring for infants and by cooperating with related organizations. Efforts will also be made to train staff capable of providing local support with childcare so as to ensure that this network functions effectively.	
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II. Stage up to School Entry

Policy	Outline	Ministry
(1) Enhancement of centers for child-raising support in the community, targeting all families	By encouraging the setting up of childcare support bases such as get-together venues and temporary custody facilities, the idea is to stimulate communication with other parents and children, to relieve parental stress, to ensure that good relations are maintained between parents and children, and to further encourage such measures. Revision of the Child Welfare Law will also be considered with a view to promoting the establishment of childcare support bases and temporary custody facilities. Efforts will also be made to train staff to provide childcare support in local communities.	MEXT, MHLW
(2) Further promotion of the Zero Waiting List Campaign	The Zero Waiting List Campaign will be continued and its goals will hopefully be achieved within five years. Efforts will be made in this connection to encourage the use of accredited children's facilities.	MEXT, MHLW
(3) Enhancement of childcare for sick and recuperating children, and children with disabilities, etc.	The aim is to enhance and expand childcare for sick and recuperating children, overtime childcare and night childcare, and children with disabilities, etc.	MHLW
(4) Enhancement of the pediatric healthcare system	As well as obtaining pediatricians by concentrating and prioritizing pediatric care functions in local communities, efforts will be made to encourage women doctors to combine work with childrearing and to assist them in resuming work. Efforts will also be made to improve the system of emergency pediatric care.	MHLW
(5) Look into revising the Law for Promotion of the Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation, including the	Release of an action plan based on the Law for Promotion of the Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation, and promoting the formulation of action plans by companies with fewer than 300 employees. Revision of the Law for Promotion of the Measures to Support the Development of the Next Generation will be studied with a view to strengthening	MHLW

announcement of an Action Plan	efforts in this direction.	
(6) Enhancement and dissemination of system of maternity child care leave and reduced working hours	Attempts will be made to improve childcare support especially in small and medium-scale companies by means restructuring the way in which work is performed and making use of substitute staff. Efforts will be made to ensure that companies that make positive efforts in this direction are commended by society. It is hoped that these measures will help promote childcare leave and encourage use of the childcare leave system by men in particular. Revision of the Childcare and Family Care Leave Law will be considered in forms such as strengthening the short-term work system during the childcare period and encouraging working from home. Thought will also be given to providing economic support during childcare leave.	MHLW
(7) Promotion of childcare service provision to employees, including childcare facilities established within offices	Efforts will be made to encourage the provision of childcare services to employees through the establishment of in-house nursery facilities, etc. (joint use by small and medium-scale companies, etc.).	MHLW, METI
(8) Promotion of measures to prevent child accidents	In order to create an everyday environment in which children can be brought up with complete reassurance, information on accidents involving children will be gathered, analyzed and shared with a view to ensuring that accidents involving children can be prevented.	MEXT, MHLW, METI, NPA
(9) Enhancement of efforts to reduce the burden on parents or guardians for pre-school education	While taking account of the system of childcare support tax, efforts will be made to alleviate the burden imposed on parents in connection with pre-school education on a national and regional level.	MEXT

III. Primary School Stage

Policy	Outline	Ministry
(1) Promotion of the After School Children's Plan (provisional name) in elementary schools nationwide	An "After School Children's Plan" (provisional name) will be drawn up with the aim of integrating or creating a cooperative relationship between the local children's classrooms administered by MEXT and the after-school children's clubs run by MHLW in municipalities throughout the country with the aim of promoting comprehensive after-school measures. With cooperation from adults in the community (university students aiming to be teachers, retired schoolteachers, etc.), opportunities will be provided for a variety of activities including study for the benefit of children with the will to learn. Consideration will again be given to participation by handicapped children.	MEXT, MHLW

<p>(2) Implementation of further safety measures for children while at school or on their commute to or from school, including the introduction of school buses</p>	<p>In order to ensure children's safety when they are traveling to and from school, efforts will be made to introduce and run school buses while cooperating with local volunteers in connection with use of buses operating on regular routes, minibuses owned by companies and welfare facilities, purchase of buses, etc. Attempts will also be made to create a system that ensures school safety on a community basis through participation by volunteers in activities involving a protective watch on children and the provision of guidance by former police officers and others who will visit schools in succession. Walkways will also be improved along routes to schools in order to protect children from traffic accidents as they travel to and from school.</p>	<p>MIC, MEXT, MLIT, NPA</p>
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IV. Junior High, High School, and University Stage

Policy	Outline	Ministry
<p>(1) Improvement to of scholarships, etc.</p>	<p>As well as examining tax measures for households raising children, especially at the stage of secondary and higher education when the economic burden placed on parents is particularly heavy, efforts will be made to alleviate this burden through the increased availability of scholarships while ensuring that the economic foundations of the plan are well founded. At the same time the aim will be to increase children's access to various forms of higher education. While taking account of connections with review of deductions for dependants, the matter of how preferential tax measures might be introduced when students and pupils pay back their scholarships will be studied.</p>	<p>MOF, MEXT</p>
<p>(2) Recommendation of student babysitters, etc.</p>	<p>Training home support volunteers and babysitters from the ranks of students will be useful not only from the standpoint of creating a body of support staff to assist with community childcare. It will also increase opportunities for students to come into contact with life and family values and will stand them in good stead when they too come to be parents in the future.</p>	<p>MEXT, MHLW</p>

(2) Reform of working practices

Policy	Outline	Ministry
(1) Employment assistance measures for young people	Efforts will be made to prevent young people from drifting into work as part-time jobbers (“freeters”) or as “neets” (young people not in education, employment or training) (further strengthening of careers education and promotion of ways of dealing with the “neet” phenomenon) and to implement measures to assist older “freeters” who failed to gain employment in previous years when the Japanese economy was in the doldrums in gaining permanent employment (promotion of an ability development system and raising the age at which young people gain employment).	CAO, MEXT, MHLW, METI, MAFF
(2) Promotion of equal treatment for part-time workers	Measures need to be strengthened, including improvements in the law, to guarantee equal treatment between full-time workers and part-time workers, and the question of application of social insurance to part-time workers needs to be studied.	MHLW
(3) Assistance measures for continuing employment or reemployment for women	To enable women to continue working, more effort needs to be made to ensuring that women are able to combine work and childcare by encouraging them to take childcare leave and shortening working hours during the childcare period. In order to support the re-employment of women, efforts to relax recruiting ages and to diffuse re-employment systems must be encouraged, and appropriate information concerning re-employment and opportunities for relevant study to this end should be provided. Efforts to encourage women to start up their own businesses also need to be made.	CAO, MEXT, MHLW, METI, MAFF
(4) Promotion of corporate efforts for child-raising support	In order to encourage efforts by companies, while taking care to ensure that no restrictions are placed on competition in connection with tender procedures, we need to consider how incentives can be provided so that the efforts being made by companies are rewarded and through providing financial back-up for the introduction of childcare support systems. Encouragement also needs to be given to the creation of regional environments that are considerate to children with the participation of companies (passport operations, etc.).	CAO, MIC, MOF, MHLW, METI, MLIT
(5) Review of working practices, including revision of long working hours	As well as rectifying long-hour working practices and encouraging the taking of annual leave, in order to prevent long-hour working, the Labor Standards Law needs to be revised to include measures such as raising the surcharge payable on overtime work. Rules concerning changes in labor contracts also need to be clarified. Study is thus needed of how to institute labor contract law that makes it possible to prescribe a variety of working methods.	MHLW
(6) Promotion of a joint public-private movement to jointly promote	In order to encourage companies to review their support for combining work with childcare and to review their working practices, a nationwide campaigns needs to be instituted bringing	CAO, MEXT,

child-raising assistance, including review of working practices	together the public and private sectors with a view to changing the attitudes of corporate executives and workers, with the ideal of realizing “harmony between work and everyday life.”	MHLW, METI
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(3) Other important areas

Policy	Outline	Ministry
(1) Consideration of a taxation system designed to assist those engaged in child-raising, etc.	Tax-related measures aimed at providing economic support for families bringing up children will be considered. This will involve reviewing the current deductions for dependants and using the funds gained therefrom to introduce tax deductions in respect to children including those of school age, issuing payments to families bringing up children, and increasing support with educational costs. A system of tax support for companies that take the lead in supporting childcare through, for example, the installation and management of in-house nursery facilities and enabling employees to take childcare leave will also be studied.	CAO, MOF, MEXT, MHLW, METI
(2) Promotion of foster parent and adoption system, including publicity activities to raise awareness	Efforts need to be made to popularize and encourage the systems of foster parenting and adoption and to engage in publicity and educational activities in this regard.	MHLW
(3) Promotion of inter-generational exchange by utilizing retirees and elderly persons in the community as human resources	In order for children to be able to deepen their bonds to their local communities and to enhance their human abilities through family communication, efforts need to be made to stimulate inter-generational communication by encouraging retired and elderly people in the community to serve as childcare supporters, as instructors in extra-curricular activities and as instructors in other practical forms of study.	MEXT, MHLW
(4) Strengthening of measures to prevent child abuse and measures to support children in care	In order to reduce to zero the number of children who lose their lives through maltreatment, efforts need to be made to further strengthen the counseling system in child counseling centers. At the same time, we intend to improve and strengthen the system of children’s home counseling on the municipal level by encouraging the setting up of local councils for dealing with children in need of protection. We will also be improving and strengthening parental guidance and support with a view to reuniting families using means such as family therapy. Children who have been subject to maltreatment will be provided with finely tailored care in children’s institutions. Support for study and employment will be given through the establishment of new methods and structures for ensuring that children in children’s institutions and those being cared for by foster parents are not disadvantaged when it comes to seeking employment or renting accommodation.	MHLW

(5) Promotion of measures to encourage comprehensive self-help efforts in single-parent families, etc.	As regards single-parent households, integrated employment services ranging from employment consultations to skills training and the provision of information on employment will be strengthened, as will also employment and autonomy support centers for single-parent families which play a role in the acquisition of upbringing costs.	MHLW
(6) Promotion of food education	By encouraging activities aimed at improving children's everyday life rhythm and diffusing guidelines on well-balanced meals, the aim is to improve food education activities ranging from the period of pregnancy through to adulthood.	CAO, MEXT, MHLW, MAFF
(7) Assistance for family homes, and for situations in which three generations of one family live together or in close proximity	Efforts will be made to enable the use of low-rental housing conducive to childrearing or the acquisition of housing at low cost. Support will also be provided to enable three generations of the same family to live together or in close proximity in order to make it possible to create diverse family relationships.	MLIT
(8) Establishment of a certification system for marriage counseling services, etc.	Support will be provided with studies aimed at creating a system that provides accreditation to companies that attain specific levels and satisfy prescribed standards of rationality, the aims being to ensure the reliability and quality of services provided by private marriage consultation businesses and marriage information services as well as to make it possible for consumers to use these services with complete confidence and reassurance.	METI

Promoting a National-wide Movement

(1) Nation-wide movement to revive family and community bonds

(1) Establishment of a “Family Day” and a “Family Week”	A “Family Day” and a “Family Week” will be instituted with the aims of increasing the opportunity for family communication and enabling participating in local community events. This will form part of a nation-wide movement aimed at deepening mutual bonds between families and people in local communities.	CAO, MIC, MEXT, MHLW
(2) National and local governments will hold events to promote family and community bonds	Events will be organized by the national and local governments involving commendations for meritorious activities, conveying the importance of transmission of family and life, education on the significance of marriage and childbirth, etc.	CAO, MIC, MEXT, MHLW
(3) A nation-wide movement will promote reform of labor-management thinking concerning review of working practices	In order to encourage companies to support efforts to combine work and childcare and to review their working practices, a nation-wide movement will be promoted by the public and the private sectors aimed at changing attitudes among corporate managers and workers, thereby achieving “harmony between work and daily life.”	CAO, MEXT, MHLW, METI

(2) Movement to take care of children and nurture respect for human life in society as a whole

(1) Publicity efforts and dissemination of awareness concerning the maternity mark	Making it possible for women to take leave from work during pregnancy and publicizing and diffusing the “maternity mark.”	CAO, MEXT, MHLW, METI, MLIT, MAFF
(2) Warnings concerning the distribution of harmful information and provision of useful information to children	Attention will be paid to the distribution of information likely to prove harmful to children obtained through the Internet and mobile phones, and efforts will be made to provide children with useful information.	MIC, MEXT, NPA
(3) Promoting understanding about	Efforts will be made to educate children all over Japan at primary school, junior high and senior	MEXT

the importance of human life and the family unit	high school concerning the importance of life and of the family and to give them an understanding of childrearing, including the experience of infant care. As well as implementing home education courses aimed at the children who will be the parents of tomorrow in the home and the community, efforts will made to enhance children's appreciation of the joy and significance of giving birth to and raising a child and of the importance of the family.	
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(Note) The names of Ministry are as follows.

CAO : Cabinet Office

MIC : Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

MOF : Ministry of Finance

MEXT : Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

MHLW : Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

MAFF : Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

METI : Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

MLIT : Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

NPA : National Police Agency