Measures against COVID-19 Pandemic
by Japanese Government and in the Welfare Field

Mr. Kenichi FURUICHI,
Vice President of JNCSW

• Involved in social welfare policy in the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare
• Former Vice President of National Hospital Organization
• Leading active policy advocacy activities to the government as the Vice President of JNCSW since 2019
Measures against COVID-19 Pandemic by Japanese Government and in the Welfare Field

Mr. Kenichi FURUICHI, Vice President of JNCSW

1. Measures and challenges of Japanese Government
2. Urgent requests from JNCSW and others
3. Disease control and service continuation at social welfare institutions, etc.
4. Disease control measures and challenges at working site such as social welfare institutions
5. Welfare Life Fund Loan service for needy people who lost their job because of unemployment or leave
6. Support activities and measures such as disease control in a large-scale disaster
7. JNCSW Social Welfare Vision 2020
## Measures and Challenges of Japanese Government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>Confirmation of the first COVID-19 infected in Japan in Kanagawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>Japanese Government designated COVID-19 as the Designated Infections as well as the Quarantinable Infectious Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>Japanese Government set up the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>Japanese Government determined the Novel Coronavirus Response Basic Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>Request of temporary school closure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>Basic Response Policy for COVID-19 (revised for 7 times)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Declaration of a state of emergency (7 prefectures)→until May 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>COVID-19 emergency economic measures (revised on April 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.25</td>
<td>Expansion of the target area of the declaration of a state of emergency (nationwide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>Cancellation of the declaration of a state of emergency (nationwide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Occurrence of heavy rain disaster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Important matters of Government Measures

1. Information service for people, companies, communities, etc.
2. Disease control measures (grasp of the situation, securing hygienic materials, self-restraint of going out, telework)
3. Measures against nosocomial infection at medical institutions, home for the aged, social welfare institutions, etc.
4. Medical service (securing hospitalization, PCR test and other inspections, development of therapeutic drug)
5. Immigration restrictions, Travel Advice and Warning (Level 3: Avoid all travel), etc.
6. Measures by prefectures
7. Consideration for human rights, etc.
8. Economic and employment measures (maintaining employment, financing, business continuation of small and medium-sized enterprises, support for needy households, taxation measures, maintenance of social functions)

### Government Budget

- 2020 FY 1st supplementary budget: 25,691,400,000,000
- 2nd supplementary budget: 31,911,400,000,000
2 · Urgent requests from JNCSW and others

【Urgent requests to Japanese Government (from March to present)】

Requests mainly for securing safety and security of social welfare service users as well as support for welfare staff including:

・Disease control measures in social welfare institutions or service offices (securing hygienic materials, PCR test, guideline for measurement in social welfare institutions, etc.)
・Collaboration with medical service
・Financial measurement to continue service in social welfare institutions or service offices
・Reward for staff members of social welfare institutions, etc.
・Expansion of consultation service for steeply increasing needy people as well as housing service for them
・Prevention of harmful rumor against social welfare working site
・Enhancement of support for borrowers of urgent small-lot special loan for individuals, etc.

⇒ Budget is mostly secured.
### 3 · Disease Control and Service Continuation at Social Welfare Institutions, etc.

#### Social welfare institution service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>77,040</td>
<td>3,817,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions for the aged</td>
<td>5,251</td>
<td>158,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support institutions for people with disabilities</td>
<td>5,619</td>
<td>190,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions for children</td>
<td>43,203</td>
<td>2,896,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare institutions including nursery</td>
<td>27,951</td>
<td>2,715,914</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of staff members: 1,079,497

#### Service continuation at social welfare institution

- 24-hour service institutions were requested to continue their service.
- Workshops for people with disabilities had to discontinue their service because of the suspension or downturn of economic activities.
- Day care centers were also requested to continue their service, and they accepted children of medical workers or care workers (essential work).
- Confusion was observed as some local governments requested to close day care centers or to refrain from attending day care centers.
- Hygienic materials necessary for infection prevention have run short since the end of April.
- Working hour of staff became longer, and it made difficult to keep their motivation.
- Infection occurred in more than 100 facilities (until April 22), and consequently rumor damage occurred.

#### Home care service

- Number of preventive care service office
  - Home visit service: 34,000
  - Day care service: 41,000
- Number of home care service office
  - Home visit service: 53,000
  - Day care service: 24,000

(as of October 1, 2018)
4 · Disease Control Measures and Challenges at Working Site such as Social Welfare Institutions

【Countermeasures and challenges for the outbreak of COVID-19 infection（for the reference）】

1 · Health management of users and staff
2 · What should be done when a staff member reported the possibility of being infected with COVID-19
3 · What should be done when a staff member becomes COVID-19 positive
4 · What should be done when a user becomes COVID-19 positive
5 · What should be done when meal service becomes impossible in an institution
6 · How to secure hygienic materials, etc.
7 · Procedure of correspondence or information disclosure
8 · Measures against harmful rumor
9 · Collaboration with other organizations or institutions
10 · Dissemination of above-mentioned information
5. Welfare Life Fund Loan Service for Needy People Who Lost their Job because of Unemployment or Leave

- Implemented by Council of Social Welfare in Prefectures (47) and Municipal Councils of Social Welfare (1,800) all over Japan
- Secured ¥260,000,000,000- as the budget for the loan
- Term: from March to the end of September
- Target: people who became poor due to unemployment or leave along with the outbreak of COVID-19 (temporary workers, self-employed individuals, foreign residents in Japan, etc.)
- Repayment after 1 year: exempted if financial difficulties are still continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Loan Type</th>
<th>Number of application</th>
<th>Accepted</th>
<th>Amount (¥)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urgent small-lot fund loan</td>
<td>528,000</td>
<td>508,000</td>
<td>90,710,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive support fund loan</td>
<td>163,000</td>
<td>127,000</td>
<td>66,500,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>691,000</td>
<td>635,000</td>
<td>157,210,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- ¥200,000/- household
- ¥200,000/- household/ month × 6 months

【Implementation status of special loan】
from March 25 to June 27, 2020
6 · Support Activities and Measures such as Disease Control in a Large-scale Disaster

【On July 4, 2020, a heavy rain disaster occurred.】

● In five prefectures in Kyushu, overflowed rivers, flood and landslide resulted in the large-scaled disaster.

● Even in the crisis of COVID-19, establishment of disaster volunteer centers for residents in disaster areas and the dispatch of disaster welfare support teams are proceeded.

● Disaster volunteer centers are established within 15 Municipal Councils of Social Welfare, and approx. 2,000 volunteers joined support activities (until July 14).

  • Pre-registration of volunteers, grasp of contact information, health check, preparation of protective equipment such as masks, volunteer activity insurance, etc.

● Life support counselors will be assigned to the communities of disaster areas to provide livelihood counseling, monitoring support, and adjustment of social welfare services for residents in disaster areas.

● Support for damaged social welfare institutions for the aged will be provided.
7 • JNCSW Social Welfare Vision 2020
“Towards the Realization of the Prosperous Welfare Society Where We Live Together”

Substance and challenge of social welfare revealed by COVID-19

1. Sustainability and development of social welfare service in changing times and new lifestyles
2. Unchanged: bonds between people, spirit and action of mutual help
3. Mission and role of social welfare as “essential work”

JNCSW Social Welfare Vision 2020

- To propose the direction of efforts towards 2030 for the time being, finally towards 2040
- To include two directions of promotion, i.e., “an inclusive community society” and “a sustainable society with diversity and inclusiveness where no one will be left behind” as shown in SDGs
- To tackle the realization of the ideal council of social welfare, ideal social welfare foundation, ideal social welfare institution, ideal commissioned welfare/child welfare volunteers, ideal senior citizen’s club

Let’s collaborate with social welfare workers in NEA, and face COVID-19 as the foundation of the society. Thank you!