

Japan Agenda item 5

For more than 20 years, Japan has been working with ESCAP to address issues related to persons with disabilities during the first and second Asia-Pacific decade of persons with disabilities. Support for persons with disabilities is important for Japan. Since the adoption of the SDGs, Japan as a whole has been actively promoting the SDGs, and is working on various measures to realize a society in which "no one is left behind," including those with disabilities. We see it meaningful to continue extending our support for ESCAP in this field.

Here I would like to overview Japan's international cooperation for persons with disability.

In relation to the implementation of the Incheon Strategy, we are extending cooperation programs in loan, which consider for the use of people with disabilities, by designing for barrier-free facilities in railway and airport construction for example.

In grant aid we takes into consideration the use of people with disabilities. Every year we implement cooperation programs such as the improvement of elementary school facilities, the construction of schools for children in special needs, and the provision of transportation minibuses. In fiscal year 2020, we implemented 37 grant projects through NGOs, totaling approximately 5.7 million US dollars.

In the area of technical cooperation, JICA is providing a wide range of cooperation, including the acceptance of trainees and the dispatch of experts and JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), in order to support the social inclusion of persons with disabilities and realization of their rights in developing countries.

As examples of Japan's cooperation in the Asia Pacific, Japan had been working together with Mongolia for four years from 2016 to enable people with disabilities to participate in the development process, by improving access to its capital, Ulaanbaatar and strengthening the capacity of organizations and government officials engaged with persons with disability. Since February 2021, we have been implementing the "Project for

Establishing an Employment Support System for Persons with Disabilities" that focuses on the employment of people with disabilities.

For ESCAP, we have been working on the development of e-learning tools for tsunami disaster prevention that are inclusive of people with disabilities. In March 2021, we started a project to support the formulation and implementation of policies related to inclusive disaster prevention for people with disabilities that also take gender equality into consideration by utilizing this e-learning tool. Through the implementation of this project, we are supporting policymakers and community leaders engaged in disaster risk reduction in the central and local governments of the target countries in South East Asia to adopt concrete measures for inclusion of people with disabilities and gender equality.

Madame chair, we will continue to share the knowledge and good practices from our experiences in Japan through this Committee of ESCAP, and other international and regional fora. Japan in close cooperation with UN ESCAP, remains committed to contributing properly to programs for people with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region.