

MISSION PERMANENTE DU JAPON
AUPRÈS DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES
GENÈVE-SUISSE

EM/UN/402

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to Note Verbale Ref.: OHCHR/RRDD/HRESI Section /Children Rights dated 18 June 2012, has the honour to transmit herewith the response of the Government of Japan.

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

OHCHR REGISTRY

05 SEP 2012

Recipients: *G. Guemas-Delgado*

Geneva, 03 September 2012



Enclosure mentioned



In accordance with operative paragraph 70 of the Human Rights Council resolution 19/37 entitled "Rights of the child", the Government of Japan is pleased to submit its response to the OHCHR's request for information for the preparation of the report on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health.

(*The legal provisions included below are unofficial translations. Only the original Japanese texts of the laws and regulations have legal effect, and the translations are to be used solely as reference material to aid in the understanding of Japanese laws and regulations.)

1. Please provide information on the main health challenges related to children that your country is facing.

【Answer】

1. While we are committed to securing children's health based on the Child Welfare Act, Medical Care Act, Preventive Vaccination Act, etc, in Japan, our main challenges are described below.

(1) As for maternal and child health, we developed the "Healthy Parent and Child 21 (2001~2014)", as the plan for the national movement. This plan outlines the main measures to be taken regarding maternal and child health in the 21st century, and it is meant to be promoted with relevant partners in this area as a whole.

In this plan, reinforcement of the healthcare measures for children at adolescence, promotion of health education, environmental arrangement to maintain and improve the level of pediatric healthcare, and acceleration of peaceful development of children's mental health are raised as main issues.

Also, in the interim assessment, the following items are regarded as priority subjects.
(Example of priority subjects)

- Strengthening the measures against children's mental problems including preventing adolescent suicide

- Strengthening the measures for decreasing the proportion of infants of low birth weight

- Strengthening the measures to prevent child abuse

(2) Concerning pediatric medical care, it is important to establish a system for children's medical care in consideration of protecting the lives of children as well as ensuring their guardians' sense of security about child-rearing. Also, the necessity of establishing medical institutions to provide emergency medical care for children has been pointed

out.

(3) As for vaccinations, they have been carried out in order to prevent the occurrence and spread of infectious diseases based on the Preventive Vaccination Act. However, it is pointed out that there are fewer kinds of vaccines used in national routine immunization in Japan compared with other developed countries (the so-called “vaccine gap” in Japan). Therefore, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (hereinafter referred to as MHLW) is being required to improve its national routine immunization program to overcome this “vaccine gap”.

2. Current health issues in school education include:

- Mental health issues, including mental and physical disorders caused by stress
- Allergic diseases, such as asthma, atopic dermatitis, and food allergies
- Behavioral problems such as smoking, drinking, and drug abuse, and infectious diseases.

However, the main problems may vary according to the situation in the particular school or region.

2. Please indicate the current status of the child’s right to health under your country’s legal framework. Please include information on legal provisions (including Constitutional provisions) which explicitly recognize the child’s right to health. Also provide information on legal recognition of key determinants to children’s health, including access to safe and adequate nutrition and housing, to water and sanitation, and to health-related education and information.

【Answer】

1. In Japan, the Constitution of Japan provides that all nationals including children have the right to maintain the minimum standard of wholesome and cultured living. We are also committed to securing children’s health based on relevant legislation, as mentioned in the answer to question 1.

Relevant specific provisions of these legislations are as follows.

(Reference)

©The Constitution of Japan (Constitution, 1945)

Article 25 (1) All people shall have the right to maintain the minimum standards of wholesome and cultured living.

(2) In all spheres of life, the State shall use its endeavors for the promotion and