

Promotion of Social Security Reform

(December 14, 2010)
Cabinet Decision

The social security reform shall be implemented in accordance with the basic policies listed below.

1. Basic policies for the social security reform

- In order to realize a feeling of safety of the people living in an aging society with a declining birthrate, it is essential that the “strengthening of functions of social security” and the “fiscal consolidation” that sustains the social security are achieved simultaneously; such achievements will eventually lead to economic growth, through the stabilization of people’s living and expansion of employment and consumption.
- For this purpose, the basic directions of the reform were stated in the “Interim Report of the Research Committee for the Comprehensive Reform of Tax and Social Security” of the Democratic Party and the “Report of the Academic Experts Committee for Social Security Reform: Social Security Vision Aiming for Secureness and Vitalization”.
- The government and ruling parties respect the contents of these reports, shall clarify the substantial reform plan with the aim of stabilizing and strengthening the social security and identifying the necessary financial resources, and comprehensively advance the reform of the tax system in order to secure the stable necessary financial resources and to achieve fiscal consolidation simultaneously; the definite plan as well as the time schedule shall be formulated by mid-2011, and we shall pursue the realization of the plan obtaining the people’s consensus.

As the measures for children and child raising and for the support of young people, which must be taken on a priority basis, we shall accelerate a relevant consideration aiming for earlier submission of the bills for Child Allowance Aid Act, the act concerning a New System for Children and Child Raising (provisional name), and the Job-Applicant Support Act (provisional name).

- In order to realize the reforms described above, the understanding and cooperation of the people must be gained, on the basis of wide-ranging discussions that go beyond individual positions/boundaries. We will honestly and openly propose before and ask each of the opposition parties to participate in discussions for the social security reform; this includes the establishment of a permanent all-party conference as a forum for such discussions.

2. Number System for Social Security and Tax

- Aiming for the realization of a society that is highly convenient for the people, it is important that the Number System for Social Security and Tax should be promoted while carrying campaign widely and gaining the people's understanding.
- For this purpose, the basic directions were stated in the "Interim Report" of the Panel on Identification Number System for Social Security and Tax. We shall make efforts to summarize the basic policies by around January of the next year and to submit bills to the Diet as soon as possible in and after autumn next year, after discussions among the people.