
Participation in Policy-Making Processes

~An Essential, Old and New Issue ~

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47 Years of Involvement in the Disability Rights Movement

- 1960: Born; Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of one / Attended a special needs school and a residential institution; from junior high school onward attended local schools/ Enrolled a University in 1978; became involved in the disability movement
 - 2004 to 2014: Secretary General of DPI Japan / Served as a member of the Disability Policy Committees / Involved in policy reforms regarding Disability Laws & Japan's ratification of the UN CRPD
 - Currently an Advisor on Disability Policy to the Cabinet Office
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Seeking Freedom from Discrimination & Pursuing Independent Living in the Community

- 1970s: Beginning of the movement of **people with severe disabilities** to live independently in communities
 - More than 50 years of pursuits:
 - Opposing **Eugenics & Ableism**; and **Segregated Education, Institutions and Hospitals**
 - Seeking **Independent Living in the community** where people **grow, learn, work, play and move together**: A society where **people with and without disabilities can live**
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1970s: Against killing disabled persons



1977: the Kawasaki protest against refusal of wheelchair-users on buses



1979: Opposing compulsory Special (Segregated) Education



A shift towards people with disabilities becoming leaders in disability movements

Disability Movement Since the 1970s:

1. Opposing **social exclusion & segregation**;
Striving for **an inclusive society**
 2. Not like the previous movement or "Disability Organizations" led by **experts** or **parents**
→ **People with disabilities** became the leaders of the disability rights movement
 - The reaction at the time: **"Heretical"**, **"Presumptuous"**
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Opposing the policy-making processes which excluded people with disabilities

- At that time, the government committees were made up of experts and parents; and implemented **construction of residential institutions and special needs schools (segregated education)** / There were **no committee members with disabilities**.
- **Direct Actions & Negotiations** by disability movement -> Outcomes e.g. Local **Visiting Care schemes for Persons with disabilities** as well as **Barrier-free policies**

“Our own voices” & participation in local policy making processes

- The International Year of Disabled People (1981) ended just a ceremony; yet **the rise of “our own voices”** afterward
 - DPI (1981) -> Founding of DPI Japan (1986)
 - Independent Living Centers -> Founding of JIL (1991)
 - Since the 1990s, local governments with active disability movements have begun to include **committee members with disabilities**
 - 1992 **Barrier-free ordinance** -> 2000 **Barrier-Free Act**
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UN CRPD & Disability Policy Reform in Japan

- Substantial and meaningful participation of people with disabilities at the national level began in the 21st century/ Direct actions demanding personal assistance and other services
 - Participation in the creation process of the UN CRPD -> Japan Disability Forum (JDF, 2004-)
 - Awareness of disability participation grew
“Nothing about us, without us!”
-> The Disability Policy Reform (2010-)
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Institutional Reform of Disability Policy

Ministerial Board for Disability Policy Reform
(Headed by the Prime Minister.
Consisting of all ministers.)

Comprehensive & intensive promotion of the "reform" toward the ratification of the UN CRPD

Committee for Disability Policy Reform (CDPR)
(Established in the Cabinet Office)

The majority of committee members are PWDs, for reflecting the opinions of people with disabilities.

Panel for the Comprehensive Support for PWDs
55 Members met 18 times to compile the framework proposal by August 30, 2011

Anti-Discrimination panel
17 meetings held to file the opinion of the panel from Oct. 2010 to Sept. 2012.

The Committee for Disability Policy Reform (CDPR) started in January 2010



Sign
language
interpreter

Subtitles "Thank you very much for attending this Committee." (Ms. M. Fukushima, Minister of State for Special Missions, Cabinet Office)

CDPR composed of a majority of members with disabilities

- Embodying the motto "Nothing about us without us!"; Of the 24 members, more than half (14) are **people with disabilities**
 - Members comprise **a diverse range of disabilities**, inc. people with physical, systemic, intellectual, psycho-social disabilities, deaf, low vision etc.
 - Government committee meetings are streamed online, for the first time in Japan, **with sign language and subtitles.**
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CDPR 's opinions -> Domestic law reforms & Ratification of UN CRPD

- 2011: **The Basic Act for Persons with Disabilities**; Basic principles prohibiting discrimination
 - 2012: **The Comprehensive Support Act for Persons with Disabilities**; Expanding personal care services (*JU-HO*) to intellectual and psycho-social disabilities
 - 2013: **The Act on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities & the Act on the Promotion of Employment of Persons with Disabilities**; Prohibiting discrimination & not providing reasonable accommodation
 - 2014: Japan **ratified the UN CRPD**
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Significance and Challenges of CDPR

- Re-organized into **Disability Policy Committee (DPC)** in 2012, monitoring implementation of **UN CRPD**; More than **half** Committee **members have disabilities**, but **none have intellectual disabilities**
 - **Weakness in independence** -- Need to establish a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and integrate the DPC under the NHRI
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An Essential, Old, and New Issue

- Substantial & Meaningful Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Decision-Making Processes: **A long-standing theme** in the disability movement
 - Concerning the positioning of persons with disabilities: **“Objects of Protection”** or **“Subjects of Rights”**
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