

29 Aug., 2005

**The Japan Workers' Co-operative Union, JWCU, is
an apex organization of workers' co-operatives and older persons' co-operatives.**

I. Brief History of JWCU

1971 ~ 1985

<Job Creation for, of, by the unemployment and the middle and older persons>

JWCU movement has a 34-year history. The first workers' co-operative was established in Nishinomiya city in Hyogo prefecture in 1971. The succeeding were in Kyoto, Nagoya, and so on. A local workers' co-operative established at that time was named "JIGYODAN" which means an "undertaking organization for the employment-promotion of the middle and the older." The purpose of this movement was (and is) to overcome the unemployment. In 1979, the National Council of JIGYODANs were set up by 36 local JIGYODANs.

The Labor Ministry of Japan decided to end its day worker aid policy in 1980. The first "directly-controlled JIGYODAN" was organized and run in Chiba by the National Council headquarter as its outlet, or its power point of the movement in 1982. It performed the maintenance work in the co-operative hospital.

1986 ~ 1991

<Departure to workers' co-operatives>

Several years later, in 1986, JIGYODANs decided to reorganize themselves on the basis of workers' co-operative system, in parallel with developing the National Council into the National Federation. The next year, the directly-controlled JIGYODANs and Tokyo JIGYODAN were consolidated, and a new JIGYODAN, the "Central JIGYODAN," was set up as a demonstration workers' co-operative.

In 1991, The Japanese Institute of Co-operative Research (JICR) was established, and the members of JICR firstly attended at ICA-CICOPA Conference.

1992 ~ 1998

<Development of workers' co-operatives and establishment of older persons' co-operatives>

In 1992, Affiliation of the National Federation to the ICA was approved at the ICA Tokyo Congress. In 1993, the National Federation was renamed the Japan Workers' Co-operative Union (JWCU).

The first older persons' co-operative was established in Mie prefecture in 1995. Since then, many older persons' co-operatives have continued to develop and promote their projects.

In 1998, JWCU AGM adopted the lobbyism policy for a "workers' co-operative law legislation."

1999 ~ now

<Promotion of comprehensive community welfare services, and toward a new well-being society>

From before establishing the Long-term Care Insurance System (April 2000), JWCU and its member co-operatives have provided training courses for care workers obtaining the home-helper certificate through the country. Over 40,000 persons had taken courses by now. JWCU has over 250 community welfare service units as of March 31, 2005.

II. Businesses

<Total turnover of JWCU member co-operatives>

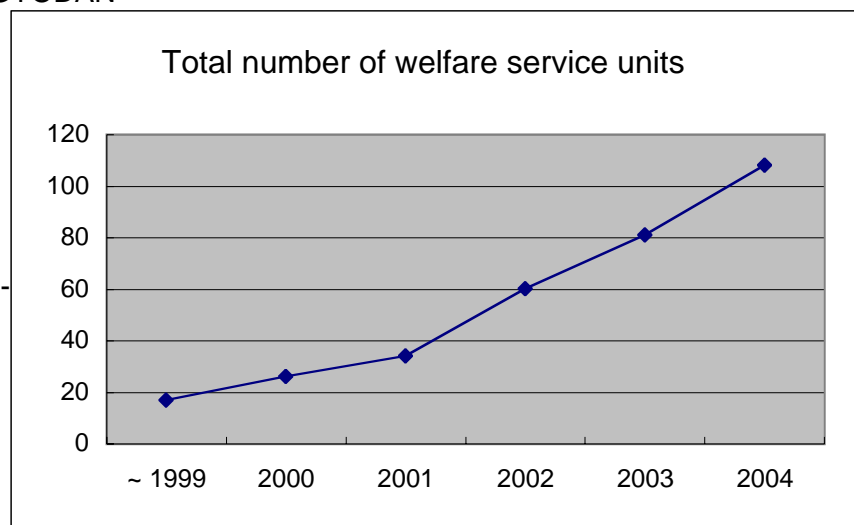
Fiscal year 2004	¥21,020 million	100.0%	Fiscal year 2000	¥19,181 million	100.0%
<breakdown>			<breakdown>		
Community welfare services:	¥6,221 million	29.6%	Community welfare services:	¥2,711 million	14.1%
Building maintenance:	¥3,814 million	18.1%	Building maintenance:	¥3,559 million	18.6%
Park maintenance and recycling:	¥3,627 million	17.3%	Park maintenance and recycling:	¥5,246 million	27.3%
Inter-cooperatives businesses:	¥2,450 million	11.7%	Inter-cooperatives businesses:	¥2,857 million	14.9%
Food and agriculture:	¥1,925 million	9.2%	Food and agriculture:	¥2,170 million	11.3%
Transportation:	¥648 million	3.1%	Transportation:	---	---
Education and training courses:	¥430 million	2.0%	Education and training courses:	---	---
Store/shop service:	¥329 million	1.6%	Store/shop service:	¥785 million	4.1%
Construction:	¥283 million	1.3%	Construction:	¥508 million	2.6%
Others:	¥1,293 million	6.2%	Others:	¥1,346 million	7.0%

<A step of establishment of community welfare service units>

In the case of the Central JIGYODAN

~ 1999	17 units
2000	9 units
2001	8 units
2002	26 units
2003	21 units
2004	27 units

Total	108 units



III. Workforces

<JWCU population>

8,791 workers
30,535 members of older persons' co-ops.

<Selected components of the Central JIGYODAN workforce>

	Total	Building Maintenance	Park	C. Coop. Delivery	Welfare
	n=1756	n=436	n=60	n=162	n=557
Gender(%)					
Women	64.7	58.9	21.7	39.5	88.2
Men	34.2	40.4	75.0	60.5	11.8
N.A.	1.1	0.7	3.3		
Age(%)					
10~	0.5	0.2			0.2
20~	7.4	5.7	1.7	12.3	7.2
30~	10.5	5.8	1.7	15.4	12.2
40~	16.3	11.4	5.0	22.2	19.4
50~	32.6	31.6	16.7	30.3	37.7
60~	26.9	37.3	46.7	17.3	21.2
70~	5.2	7.1	26.7	2.5	1.6
N.A.	0.7	0.7	1.7		0.5
Working hours a day (%)					
t ≤ 4(hours)	26.1	18.7	8.3	16.6	44.9
4 < t < 7	22.2	26.1	61.7	23.5	14.7
7 ≤ t	49.6	52.3	30.0	59.2	36.9
N.A.	2.0	2.8		0.6	3.4
Tenure (%)					
y < 1(year)	19.4	21.4	10.0	6.2	25.0
1 ≤ y < 3	33.9	33.3	43.3	16.7	40.0
3 ≤ y	44.3	44.7	45.0	75.3	32.7
N.A.	2.2	0.7	1.7	1.9	2.3
Job status just before entrance into the central JIGYODAN					
Full time	38.9	46.1	61.7	42.0	26.4
Part time	29.1	25.9	13.3	28.4	36.3
Other contract	5.9	6.6	5.0	5.0	7.5
self-employed/profession	6.3	8.0	5.0	7.4	5.2
Student	3.8	2.8		4.9	3.1
Other	6.7	3.4	6.7	4.9	11.5
N.A.	9.4	7.1	8.3	7.4	10.1
With experience in involuntary unemployment					
Yes	18.8	23.2	18.3	19.8	13.3
No	67.8	63.5	70.0	66.7	77.2
N.A.	13.3	13.3	11.7	13.6	9.5

Source: The second questionnaire survey collected in 2004

IV. Delivery of services via "contracts"

(1) Contracts with municipalities/prefectures

commission from

Child care services

Tokyo Children's Hall
After-school child care
(3 clubs)
2 Children's halls

Tokyo metropolis
Itabashi city, Tokyo
Shinjuku city, Tokyo

Care services for older persons

"IKI IKI (liveliness) plaza"
"Ten Million House"
Day service for fulfilling life
Day service for fulfilling life
Support to senior life
Preventive care
Preventive care
Training for preventive carer
Mini day services for fulfilling life
Preventive care
Preventive care
Older Persons' salon

Sumida city, Tokyo <*>
Musashino city, Tokyo
Itabashi city, Tokyo
Nerima city, Tokyo
Katsushika city, Tokyo
Ichinoseki city, Iwate
Saitama city, Saitama
Wako city, Saitama
Wako city, Saitama
Kawasaki city, Kanagawa
Hita city, Ooita
Yamagata prefecture

<*> "Comprehensive Outsourcing" using the site of the primary school

Revitalization of shopping district

1 district
3 districts
3 districts
1 district
1 district

Kita city, Tokyo
Adachi city, Tokyo
Itabashi city, Tokyo
Fujisawa city, Kanagawa
Sagamihara city, Kanagawa

In connection with community business (CB)

"CB contest" winner
Community college
Support to CB
Support to citizens' activities

Itabashi city, Tokyo
Suginami city, Tokyo
Gumma prefecture
Saitama prefecture
Adachi city, Tokyo

In connection with Massive Emergency-employment Measures

Vocational Trainings for the jobless, Vocational Trainings for Day Laborers,
Community surveys, Home helper training courses, Job-creating courses, etc.

Tokyo metropolis
Sumida city, Tokyo
Adachi city, Tokyo
Koganei city, Tokyo
Itabashi city, Tokyo
Kagoshima prefecture
Fukushima prefecture
Tochigi prefecture
Kawasaki city, Kanagawa
Tachikawa city, Tokyo

Okinawa prefecture
Chiba prefecture
Saitama prefecture
Tokyo Center of EHDO(*)
Saitama Center of EHDO
Iwate Center of EHDO
Gumma Center of EHDO
Hiroshima Center of EHDO
Shiga Center of EHDO
Chiba Center of EHDO

(*) EHDO: Employment and Human resources Development Organization

(2) Other Topics

Home helper training course for high school students with mental disability to get helper certificate in collaboration with the administration of Tokyo metropolitan Nakano School for Disabled.

Home helper training course for persons with mental disability to get helper certificate under contract with Saitama prefecture.

V. Associated Work Cooperative Society (provisional title) Bill

In Japan, we have not a "workers' cooperative law" which legally supports workers' cooperative movement or capacitates a workers' cooperative incorporation. Thence we, JWCU, have been campaigning for legislation for workers' cooperatives, and are doing.

We made proposals of "Associated Work Cooperative Society (provisional title) Bill" to Policy Makers and Law Makers. The excerpt of the Bill is following.

Purpose

The main purpose of this law is to promote the activities which are to generate working a chance voluntarily by workers and other citizens themselves through endorsing a legal ability to organizations with carrying on the bussiness based on the associated work by workers and other citizens. It shall push forward to contribute developing societies in the community, and hereby the law shall be intended to achieve the development of the national economy and stability in the living for the poeple.

Deffinition

- 1 The associated work is that the one who will to do work invests for the purpose of carrying on business on a cooperative basis, jointly manage the enterprisse, and product materials or services
- 2 The associated work cooperative society is a cooperative society in which carries on business by workers and other citizens on a voluntarily basis, operates the enterprise in a cooperative and democratic way.

Creteria for the Associated Work Cooperative Society

- 1 The cooperative society shall fulfill each item of creteria as listed followings.
 - 1) Voluntary membership
 - 2) Same amount per share to all members.
 - 3) One person one vote
 - 4) Nonprofit cooperation funds -- "indivisible reserves"
 - i) Job creation fund
 - ii) Educational promotion fund
 - iii) Community wel-being fund
 - iv) National nonprofit fund
 - 5) Priority on the occasion of a disposal of net profit
 - 1st: for the nonprofit cooperation funds
 - 2nd: labor dividend and for other activities with the members' approval
 - final: stock devidend at the limited interest rate
 - 6) An autonomous association managed democratically by the members
 - 7) Intercooperative activities promotion
- 2 The cooperative society shall have neither religious purposes nor political purposes.
- 3 At the cooperative, a cooperative worker should be its member, and a cooperative member should be its worker, in principle.

-- fin --