

In order to help crime victims to recover from damage caused by crimes and once again to be able to peacefully reside in the region, not only implementing measures from national and local governments, but the cooperation based on the understanding and consideration of all people living in the region is needed.

For this purpose in the Basic Plan for Crime Victims, by gaining the cooperation of the National Police Governments, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, "Crime Victims' Week (11/25 to 12/1)" has been set and an enlightenment program made for this week has been intensively implemented. The below efforts has been carried out in 2009.

1 Recruiting Slogans

When fostering the understanding of citizens concerning crime victims, the introduction/ explanation of measures such as posters/ pamphlets and public programs are important in addition to appealing in simple words. For this purpose in the Cabinet Office has been recruiting slogans widely expressing the importance of supporting crime victims from general citizen once a year since 2007. Especially from 2008, recruiting programs were mainly carried out for junior high and high schools, and in 2009 the number of submissions rose to 3,094.

Among these, second year student Yuuto Hazawa of Aichi Prefecture Chiryu Municipal Ryuhoku Junior High School had his slogan "Think, importance of life, one more time" selected as the best work, and along with a commendation from the in-charge cabinet minister at a Central Public Meeting, it was utilized in posters and other media. Also, three other excellent submissions were combined and posted to the Cabinet Office Crime Victim Policies homepage.



Commendation for best work ("Central Public Meeting")

2 Holding “Public Meeting”

In order to deepen citizens’ understanding regarding the situation in which crime victims are in and the importance of considering honor or peace in life, a central “Crime Victims’ Week” Public Meeting organized by the Cabinet Office was held (12/1) along with regional meetings jointly sponsored by the Cabinet Office and local governments in Hokkaido (11/18), Okinawa (11/20), Nara (11/25), and Kanagawa (11/30). With the cooperation of related government offices, crime victim groups, and crime victim support groups, as well as gaining the participation of experts, a keynote speech and panel discussion were held regarding themes concerning crime victims. In addition, original functions such as concerts and crime victim support activity reports were held in each meeting. Furthermore, an exhibition corner introducing crime victim groups and the efforts of related governments was set up at each meeting place.

At the central meeting, a keynote speech was given by Hajime Sakai, a surviving family member of a victim of the Osaka Kyoiku University-affiliated Ikeda Elementary School children murder incident, —whose speech was titled, “Returning Point of Crime Victim

Support – The Support we Desired and the Support we Received – ” and explained his experiences in simple words. Also, the importance of verifying the support from both the providing and receiving sides was expressed in his speech.

In a questionnaire given for those who attended the meeting, over 90% responded that the meeting was “worthwhile”. At the same time there was a viewpoint that the process of making the issue public should be more thorough, which brought the necessity for further into and enlightenment up to the surface.

The results of the meeting were both posted on the Cabinet Office Crime Victim Measure homepage and distributed as written reports to related governments.

Continuing also in 2010, the Cabinet Office-organized central “Public Meeting” is scheduled to take place in the Tokyo metropolitan area (12/1) along with plans to hold regional meetings jointly sponsored by the Cabinet Office and local governments in Fukui, (11/23), Wakayama (11/25), Hyogo (11/27), and Chiba (11/28).



Hokkaido Meeting



Okinawa Meeting



Nara Meeting

Kanagawa Meeting

3 Other Efforts

In the periods before and after Crime Victims' Week, various efforts were carried such as original symposiums in related governments, street campaigns, and PR activities using the mass media. In the Office Cabinet, posters were created and distributed as well. From 2010, while more effective methods will be considered, various public awareness initiatives are planned.

