

Outline of Efforts on the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation”

May 25, 2018

Liaison Conference of the Relevant Ministries and Agencies
concerning Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation

I. State of Child Sexual Exploitation (for 2017)

- The number of persons arrested (*) for child pornography cases was at a new high with 1,703. The number of child victims was 1,216, and is a continuing rising trend.
- The total number of persons arrested (*) for child prostitution cases etc. (including child prostitution and causing a child to commit an obscene act (Child Welfare Law), as well as lewd sexual acts (juvenile protection ordinances, etc.)) was 2,057. The number of child victims was 1,823, is a continuing rising trend.

* The word “arrest” includes the meaning of “referring cases to the Public Prosecutor’s Offices etc. without restraining suspects”

II. State of Primary Efforts (from April 18, 2017 to March 31, 2018)

* NPA (National Police Agency), CAS (Cabinet Secretariat), CAO (Cabinet Office), MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications), MOJ (Ministry of Justice), MOFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), MHLW (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare), METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry)

1. Enhancement of public awareness for the eradication of child sexual exploitation, development of social awareness, and the strengthening of collaboration with international society

- Holding of the Conference for Promotion of Measures on Eradication of Child Sexual Exploitation, and acting upon opinions exchanged between the public and private sectors. [NPA, etc.]
- Holding of public symposium on the topic “For Rooting out Child Sexual Exploitation” (approximately 190 participants). [CAO]
- Dissemination of joint messages by the Chairman of National Public Safety Commission and the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. [NPA, MEXT]
- Having briefed on Japan’s efforts at the international conference which “WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online” co-organized and was participated by foreign governments, international NGOs, and the like. [MOFA, NPA]
- Uploading of the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation onto an English-language website and dissemination via foreign missions in Tokyo, and Japanese embassies, consulates and permanent missions. [NPA]

2. Support for children and families to ensure the sound growth of children without victimization by sexual exploitation

- Promotion of filter use by distributing educational materials for parents and legal guardians at cellphone service provider stores and intensification of informational efforts to raise internet literacy. [CAO, NPA, MIC, MEXT, METI, etc.]
- Implementation of educational meetings for children and guardians regarding safe internet use (2,309 meetings held, attended by about 390,000 participants). [MIC, MEXT]
- Creation of educational materials regarding information morals education for students, distribution of one each to every primary, junior high, and high school, as well as to every first-year junior high school student. [MEXT]
- Revision of the manual for cybercrime prevention volunteer activities and presentation of certificates of appreciation to groups that actively reported illegal contents, in order to promote their activities. [NPA]
- Promotion of comprehensive support for single-parent households by for example submitting to the Diet legislative proposals for increasing the number of payments of the Child-Rearing Allowance from 3 to 6 per year. [MHLW]

3. Promotion of measures to prevent the occurrence and spread of victimization that focuses on tools used for child sexual exploitation

- Demanding thorough explanations regarding internet filters from service providers and thorough use by legal guardians. [MIC]
- Support for distribution prevention measures by supplying service providers with address lists of uploaded child pornography. [MIC, etc.]
- Support for the newly instituted the Conference for Development of Internet Use Environment for Young People, implementation of lobbying of service providers who are not yet participating. [NPA]

4. Prompt protection of child victims and the promotion of appropriate support

- Providing consultations at police departments or regional legal affairs bureaus nationwide. Advertising of telephone etc. consultation services. [NPA, MOJ]
- Implementation of street guidance activities for children working in “JK businesses” (businesses that provide services rendered by children) (guidance/protection of 46 children (as of end of December)). [NPA]
- Institution of call center system, in which an operator responds to calls, to increase the user-friendliness of the national children’s welfare center hotline (189). [MHLW]
- Commencement of operation of the nationwide speed dial (#8103 (Heart-san)) which connects to sexual crime victim hotlines of prefectural police departments. [NPA]
- Opening of new one-stop support centers for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence in 6 prefectures. [CAO]

5. Strengthening of crackdowns in line with the situation of victimization and rehabilitation of offenders

- Implementation of advice for local governments that are planning to enact or amend ordinances regarding the regulation of “JK businesses” (ordinances enacted/amended in 5 prefectures). [NPA]
- Promotion of crackdowns on child sexual exploitation cases such as violations of the Act Against Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. [NPA]
- Active prosecution of violations of the Act Against Child Prostitution and Child Pornography to realize strict punishment. [MOJ]
- Cooperation among the Public Prosecutor’s Office, the police, and child guidance centers to increase efforts for greater consideration in the questioning of children. [MOJ, NPA, MHLW]
- Implementation of guidance on prevention of repeat sexual offenses in penal institutions. Revision of handbook. [MOJ]

6. Strengthening of the foundation for realizing a society where children will never become victims of sexual exploitation

- Promotion of placing school counselors and the like for the early detection and early support of abused children in schools. [MEXT]
- Implementation of training to improve knowledge of child sexual exploitation criminal investigations and support for child victims (30 investigation trainees, 30 support trainees). [NPA]
- Implementation of training including a curriculum on how to respond to sexual abuse for employees at children’s welfare centers in each prefecture. [MHLW]

III. Current Issues

- Circumstances surrounding child sexual exploitation are extremely worrisome, with the numbers of arrested (*) perpetrators and child victims in child pornography and child prostitution cases rising.
- Due to these circumstances, it is necessary for relevant government authorities and the private sectors (organizations and companies) to cooperate, on the basis of this plan, and continuously promote efforts to eliminate child sexual exploitation.

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