

**Social Security
in
Japan**

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Preface

Japan has entered the phase of population decline and the proportion of the elderly is the highest in the world. Yet the life expectancy of Japanese is high and the health expenditure per capita is low compared to other industrialized nations. The social security plays an important role to maintain the Japanese society as it is.

This booklet aims to provide foreign researchers and specialists with an introductory explanation of aspects of the social security system in Japan: pensions, health and long-term care insurance, public assistance, family policy, policy for people with disabilities and labor insurance. The first edition was published in March 2000, and this is the sixth version updated as of January 2014.

Along with evolving needs and challenges, the social security system in Japan has been, and will be constantly revised and reformed. The complexity of the system needs clear and concise explanation to facilitate international comparison and provide some hints for ameliorating existing institutions elsewhere. We sincerely hope that this booklet will be useful for those who care for the welfare of people and betterment of the society.



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