

Remarks on the paper

U.S. Foundation for International Economic Policy is pleased to introduce a paper published in February, 2008 that dealt with the emerging issues of long-term care services for the elderly under Japan's Long-Term Care Services Insurance System which has been implemented since the year 2000 as a universal care service system for the elderly with the age of 65 years old above. The title of the paper is "Necessity of re-defining long-term care services insurance system in order to meet the needs of the accelerating aging society; Changes required from quantities oriented care approach to qualitative focused care system at institutional facilities with the adaptation of the re-defined supportive system." This paper is published by Dr. Teruhisa Mokuno, Chairman, Sun-Life Social and Welfare Organization with the support and assistance of the governmental entities in the United States, Canada and Japan as well as the various professional and academic entities. US Foundation for International Economic Policy is one of the key organizations which provided the various assistances and supports for the publication of this paper.

This paper has focused its findings on historical perspective of how so-called "Minimum Staffing Requirements at Nursing Homes and Skilled Nursing Homes in the United States and Canada were initiated for its implementation through the various discussions, deliberations, recommendations based on the in-depth studies and researches that were conducted through multiple angles approaches to determine the most appropriate staffing requirements at nursing homes and skilled nursing homes to meet the requirement of quality of care services for the elderly in comparative analysis of how it was intended to be done in Japan.

The paper has also introduced the various types of educational and training programs which have been advocated for implementation by government entities at both Federal and state level as well as by major professional organizations including the hearings conducted at the US Congress. From these activities, the paper enumerate the various kind of policies and programs the Federal and state governments initiated and designed to

enhance quality of care skills of professional care workers to meet the needs of the accelerating aging society where complexes and mixed psychology of the elderly are being brought into the new aging society due to the coming of so-called “Baby Boomer’s generation into the aging society.”

What the United States and Canada have been embarking on the new approaches to enhance the quality of care services to meet the needs of the emerging aging society is valuable lessons from which Japan could learn to improve the working condition of care givers and other professional workers which is now becoming the most critical issue in the field of care services for the elderly. The paper may shed some lights on how Japan should re-define aging policies to cope with the issue of retention of care givers and its quality of care skills under the Long-Term Care Services Insurance System.

US Foundation for International Economic Policy
Acting Chairman & Executive Director
Yusuke Kataoka
March, 2008