

2015 INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE TEACHING PROFESSION COUNTRY UPDATE ON 2014 GOALS

JAPAN

- 1. To maintain the system that enables transfer of teachers in wide areas to equalize the distribution of experienced teachers**
 - In order to ensure that suitable education is provided and definite standards are maintained on a national level, personnel matters regarding teachers at municipal, town, or village elementary and junior high schools are handled at the prefectural level, thus permitting personnel transfers across municipalities, towns, or villages.

- 2. To support boards of education in improving quality of teachers**
 - By law, prefectural boards of education, which have the authority to hire new teachers, are obligated to provide training programs for new teachers and for teachers with ten years' experience as teachers.
 - MEXT is providing funding for the assignment of teacher trainers to conduct training for new teachers, and for the dispatch of teacher supervisors and experts to visit schools and improve the teaching skills of teachers.
 - With regard to the salary costs for teachers at public compulsory education schools, the full amount of funds is secured by the sharing of costs, whereby the national government provides 1/3 of the salary costs and the prefectural governments provide 2/3 of the costs.

- 3. Under the Child Anti-Poverty Law, to establish benchmarks to measure child development, such as high-school enrollment rates**
 - Last August, "Guidelines for Measures to Combat Child Poverty" based on the Child Anti-Poverty Law were approved.
 - These Guidelines specify 25 benchmarks, including high school-enrollment rates for children belonging to households receiving welfare support, the number of school social workers allotted, the employment rates for single parents, and child poverty rates.
 - Based on these Guidelines, various measures for combatting child poverty are being promoted, such as efforts to reduce the financial burden on families by the step-by-step making of early childhood education free, High School Supplemental Scholarship Fund, and enhancing the Scholarship loan program for students in higher education, etc., in a seamless way, from early childhood education up to the level of higher education. In addition, with schools as the platform, measures will be taken to utilize school social workers, provide support for ensuring academic achievement at school and making career choices, provide learning opportunities and support from the community, and so on.