

NGO report on the implementation of UPR recommendations by the Japanese government

14 July 2022

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Racial discrimination in Japan: children attending Korean schools

Submitted by:

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¹ This report was jointly submitted by International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR).

I. Discrimination against children attending Korean schools: Exclusion from the Tuition Waiver Program and Tuition Support Fund Program for High School Education

A. Relevant Third-Cycle UPR recommendations

1. **161.145** Ensure that the “Tuition Waiver and Tuition Support Fund Programme for High School Education” is extended to all schools in the country, including those that are under the responsibility of local governments (Portugal)
2. **161.150** Ensure that minority children enjoy the right to education without discrimination, in line with the recommendations by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Austria)
3. **161.151** Take measures to extend the “Tuition Waiver and Tuition Support Fund Program for High School Education” to children attending Korean schools and ensure equal treatment of Korean schools in accordance with the recommendations of relevant United Nations treaty bodies (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea)
4. **161.86** Repeal all state policy and regulations which condone discrimination against and harassment of Koreans in Japan (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea)
5. **161.146** Continue in its efforts to ensure full access to education enrolment to all and to remove any obstacles that minority communities may face, particularly in reference to equal access to education for women and girls (State of Palestine)

B. Assessment of implementation of recommendation

6. Not implemented yet

C. Suggested Recommendations

7. Revise its position to ensure that Korean school students have equal educational opportunities without any discrimination concerning funding from the High School Tuition Support Fund Program.

D. Backgrounds

8. The Government of Japan has excluded students of 10 Korean high schools from the Tuition Waiver and Tuition Support Fund Program, hereafter referred to as the Tuition Support Fund Program, which started in 2010, while including students of other 42 foreign schools such as Chinese and Brazilian schools.² As of July 2022, the number of Korean school students excluded from the Program reached several thousand, and the total amount of damage exceeds one billion yen (approx. 7,291,550 USD). The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR), and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) have issued five recommendations in total, urging the Government to rectify the discrimination against Korean school students.³

9. The Government states that Korean schools are currently not eligible for the Support System as they are not

² The Government has expanded compulsory education to the high school level since 2010 by enforcing the “Tuition Waiver and Tuition Support Fund Program for High School Education”, which exempted tuition fees for students of Japanese public high school and provided funds equivalent to tuition fees of Japanese public high schools for students of private high schools, including technical schools and foreign schools that are accredited as “miscellaneous school”.

As for foreign schools, they were categorized into three types to be the subject of the Program, (i) a school whose curriculum is equivalent to the one of a high school in its native country, (ii) an international school certified by the international educational evaluation institution, (iii) a school the Minister of Education certified that it has curriculum equivalent to the one of high school level. The Government has designated twenty national schools such as Chinese and Brazilian as the first category and 22 international schools as the second category as subjects of the Program as of July 2022.

³ See CRC/C/JPN/CO/4-5, para 39 (c), CERD/C/JPN/CO/10-11, para 22, CERD/C/JPN/CO/7-9, para 19, E/C.12/JPN/CO/3, para 27, CERD/C/JPN/CO/3-6, para 22(e).

confirmed to meet the criteria stipulated by the relevant laws and regulations.⁴ The Government also states that the decision has nothing to do with the nationality of students or political or diplomatic considerations.⁵ However, we consider it incorrect for two reasons below.

10. Firstly, the Government postponed applying the Program to Korean school students for political and diplomatic reasons, such as the military tension between Japan and the Korean peninsula. Furthermore, the Government legally excluded Korean school students from the Program in February 2013 by revising its ministerial ordinance that eliminated the third category for foreign schools, which had been the criteria for applying the Program to Korean school students. That is to say, the elimination of the criteria was the exact reason the Government excluded Korean school students from the Program. Mashiko Shibayama, the then minister of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), stated in the Diet in March 2019 as follows: “We will not designate Korean schools as the recipients of the Program whether we confirm or not that the schools carry out appropriate school management under the relevant regulations. This is because we eliminated the provision under which the school made for the application of the Support Fund.”

⁶ It means that the Government confessed that it shut the door for Korean schools to apply for the Program because it eliminated the criteria.

11. Secondly, the Government stated that it would eliminate the criteria because “There is no progress of the Abduction issue (between Japan and DPR Korea).”⁷ ⁸ It meant that the Government excluded Korean schools from the Program for political and diplomatic reasons, contrary to its report.⁹

12. In conclusion, a reason the Government excluded of Korean school students from the Program lies the elimination of the criteria, which considered political and diplomatic issues. The Government has denied the rights of Korean school students to have equal educational opportunities for more than a decade.

II. Discrimination against children attending Korean schools: Suspension of subsidies to Korean schools by local governments

A. Relevant Third-Cycle UPR recommendations

13. **161.150** Ensure that minority children enjoy the right to education without discrimination, in line with the recommendations by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Austria)

14. **161.151** Take measures to extend the “Tuition Waiver and Tuition Support Fund Program for High School Education” to children attending Korean schools and ensure equal treatment of Korean schools in accordance with the recommendations of relevant United Nations treaty bodies (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea)

15. **161.86** Repeal all state policy and regulations which condone discrimination against and harassment of Koreans in Japan (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea)

⁴ See CCPR/C/JPN/7, para 235

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ See <https://kokkai.ndl.go.jp/#/detail?minId=119815104X00320190319&spkNum=33&single> (available in Japanese language only).

⁷ In September 2002, the leader of the DPRK met with the Prime Minister of Japan in Pyongyang and officially apologized for abducting Japanese nationals in the 1970-80s. Since then, harsh DPRK-bashing has occurred all over Japan. It caused hate speeches and hate crimes against Zainichi Koreans and Korean school children.

⁸ At the press conference by Hakubun Shimomura, the then Minister of MEXT, on 28th Dec 2012. See https://warp.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/11373293/www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/daijin/detail/1329446.htm (available in Japanese language only).

⁹ Regarding this issue, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) issued a presidential statement, which urged the MEXT to withdraw the deletion of criteria. JFBA stated in the statement that the deletion of criteria refuses to provide subsidies based on no progress to resolve the abduction issue, which has nothing to do with the right of the child to receive education (See Annex 1). The Japan Times, one of the leading English Newspapers in Japan, said in its editorials in 2013 that the exclusion of Korean schools from the Program constitutes discrimination and that the Government should withdraw the decision to exclude the schools (See Annex 2).

16. **161.146** Continue in its efforts to ensure full access to education enrolment to all and to remove any obstacles that minority communities may face, particularly in reference to equal access to education for women and girls (State of Palestine)

B. Assessment of implementation of recommendation

17. Not implemented yet

C. Suggested Recommendations

18. Ensure to invite local governments to resume the provision of subsidies to Korean schools in line with the recommendations by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

D. Backgrounds

a) Suspension of subsidies by local governments

19. The discriminatory measure to exclude Korean school students from the Tuition Waiver Program by the central government has led some local governments to suspend subsidies to Korean schools since 2010.

20. Subsidies by local governments for Korean schools were approximately one-tenth of Japanese public schools and one-third of Japanese private schools on average as of 2009. Although it was so small compared to other Japanese schools, it had become a valuable financial resource for the operation of Korean schools, which had had no financial support from the central government.

21. Since 2010, 11 prefectural governments out of 28 prefectures where Korean schools are located have suspended subsidies to Korean schools. Those governments include Tokyo, Osaka, Saitama, Miyagi, Chiba, Kanagawa, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Niigata, Ibaraki, and Wakayama. They cited political and diplomatic relations as the reasons for suspension of their subsidies.¹⁰ Some cities such as Osaka city, Hiroshima city, and Yokohama city have also suspended their subsidies to Korean schools, following the decision of the prefecture the city belongs to, to stop the subsidies to Korean schools.¹¹

22. Due to the suspension of subsidies, Korean schools have been facing extreme financial difficulty. They had no choice but to run up tuition fees and other expenses. Thus, many parents have given up sending their children to Korean schools.

b) The pressure from the central government to local governments to suspend subsidies

23. In 2014, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) pointed out that the suspension of subsidies by local governments is “government’s actions that hinder the right to education of children of Korean origin”. The Committee also recommended that the Japanese government invite local governments to resume or maintain the provision of subsidies to Korean schools.¹² However, contrary to the concern and the recommendation, the Japanese government issued a notice named “Points to be noted concerning subsidies relating to Korean schools” in March 2016 to each local government¹³, which made other several local governments suspend subsidies to Korean schools.¹⁴

24. While the notice did not refer to the concern and the recommendation by the CERD, the Government demanded the local governments reconsider the provision of subsidies, which became a de facto pressure to

¹⁰ See Annex 3, Policy speech by the Governor of Tokyo on suspension of subsidies to Korean school children (31st Oct, 2012)

¹¹ See Annex 4, Media coverage on local governments’ suspension of subsidies to Korean schools (31st Oct, 2013)

¹² CERD/C/JPN/CO/7-9, para 19.

¹³ See Annex 5, *Attention with regard to the provision of local government subsidies to North Korean schools (Notice)*

¹⁴ See Annex 6, Editorial of The Asahi Shimbun, “Politicians bully Korean school students for acts of Pyongyang” (22nd Mar 2016)

make local governments suspend the provision of subsidies to Korean schools.

25. In fact, the governor of Ibaraki prefecture announced to suspend the provision of subsidy for the fiscal year 2016 for Ibaraki Korean School on the ground of the notice issued by the central government. The notice also made other several local governments reconsider the provision of subsidies to Korean schools.

26. Among those local governments that have suspended the provision of subsidies to Korean schools, no government resumed it as of July 2022. According to the media coverage, the total amount of subsidies to Korean schools from local governments in fiscal 2019 decreased by 75% compared to that in fiscal 2009.¹⁵

III. Discrimination against children attending Korean schools: Exclusion of Tuition-free Measures to Preschool/Daycare Facilities belonging to Foreign National Schools including Korean kindergartens

A. Relevant Third-Cycle UPR recommendations

27. **161.86** Repeal all state policy and regulations which condone discrimination against and harassment of Koreans in Japan (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

28. **161.146** Continue in its efforts to ensure full access to education enrolment to all and to remove any obstacles that minority communities may face, particularly in reference to equal access to education for women and girls (State of Palestine)

B. Assessment of implementation of recommendation

29. Not implemented yet

C. Suggested Recommendations

30. Ensure to re-examine its "Tuition-free Measures to Preschool/Daycare Facilities" and take necessary measures to apply them to children attending foreign and national schools.

D. Backgrounds

31. Tuition-free Measures to Preschool/Daycare Facilities, hereafter the Tuition-free System, came into effect on October 1, 2019¹⁶. The basic principle of this system is to "provide support to ensure the growth and well-being of all children" (Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Amended Support Act). In spite of this, in the statutory system, the children who attend preschool/daycare facilities belonging to foreign national schools (e.g. Korean schools, Brazilian schools and international schools) that fall into the category of Miscellaneous Category Schools (Article 134, paragraph 1 of the School Education Act), are ineligible for the Tuition-free System.¹⁷

32. According to the Japanese government, the ineligibility which these children are subject to has been justified for the reason that "Miscellaneous Category Schools "are providing wildly diverse education without established standards relating to their distinctive schooling including preschool education. Additionally, they are not included in non-licensed childcare facilities as defined in the Child Welfare Act", hence the

¹⁵ <https://www.sankei.com/article/20210207-HV5FPNYOFVNY5BDT2BB3IL3EAU/> (available in Japanese language only)

¹⁶ Under the Tuition-free System, there is no fee for kindergarten, daycare centers, and centers for early childhood education and care for ages 3 to 5. (For ages 0 to 2, there is no fee for the households with exemptions from municipal residence tax.) For the children between 3 years old to 5 years old using unlicensed childcare institutions, up to 37000-yen are exempt per month from their tuition fees. (As for the children aged 0 to 2 years using unlicensed childcare institutions, only households with exemptions from municipal residence tax are eligible for up to 42000-yen exemption per month for their tuition fees.)

¹⁷ As of May 2019, the number of kindergartens attached to foreign and national schools categorized as miscellaneous schools was 89. 40 out of 89 kindergartens attached to Korean schools. In contrast, the number of child facilities which the "Tuition-free System" are applied is about 55000 whether child facilities are licensed or not. ("School Basic Investigation" by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and "Management Fact-Finding for kindergartens and nurseries")

preschool/daycare facilities belonging to the “Miscellaneous Category Schools” are not deemed “facilities where the quality of preschool education provided is properly guaranteed by law”.

33. Nevertheless, even the non-licensed childcare facilities, which concerns against them had been raised regarding ensuring the quality because of their diverse operations, became eligible for the Tuition-free System by considering the fact that such facilities offer child care services and early childhood education for children in need and the voices of users. However, foreign and international schools categorized as “miscellaneous schools” are excluded formally from the System without taking into account such fact, which is nothing but unreasonable handling. Excluding the children attending the preschool/daycare facilities of foreign national schools on the ground that these schools are classified as “miscellaneous category”, constitutes discrimination, which is prohibited under Article 14 of the Constitution of Japan, Article 2, paragraph 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 2, paragraph 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and Article 2, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Therefore, this discriminatory handling should be amended as soon as possible.

34. In light of the basic principle of this Tuition-free System which is to “provide support to ensure the growth and well-being of all children”, the reason to exclude foreign and national kindergartens, where children belonging to minorities can positively develop their identity through learning languages and cultures of their roots, cannot be found.

35. Against this backdrop, children attending foreign and national kindergartens should be included to Tuition-free System and necessary measures should be taken including the revision of law¹⁸¹⁹.

IV. Discrimination against children attending Korean schools: Hindering the expression of their identities due to hate speech and hate crimes against Korean residents in Japan

A. Relevant Third-Cycle UPR recommendations

36. **161.86** Repeal all state policy and regulations which condone discrimination against and harassment of Koreans in Japan (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea)

37. **161.146** Continue in its efforts to ensure full access to education enrolment to all and to remove any obstacles that minority communities may face, particularly in reference to equal access to education for women and girls (State of Palestine)

B. Assessment of implementation of recommendation

38. Not implemented yet

C. Suggested Recommendations

39. Enact a law prohibiting hate speech and hate crimes against ethnic minorities to ensure that Korean

¹⁸ The Government has started the Support Program for Use of Various Schools for Children before Elementary School Age as one of the regional childcare support programs based on the Child Care and Child Rearing Support Act since FY 2021.

The Program is the outcome of the Government’s consideration that reviewing how the Government and the municipalities could cooperate to help support the “so-called quasi-preschools” including the Miscellaneous Category Schools, to which the Tuition-free System does not apply, because these facilities were, through various historical developments indigenous to each distinct region, conceived to be playing a vital role even today by meeting the needs of the local community and parents. It is welcome that the Program is available to foreign national schools including Korean kindergartens if those facilities meet certain criteria decided by the Government. However, the problem lies in the fact that it is left to the judgment of each local government, (wards, cities, towns, or villages) whether be the Program implemented or not. That means the Program would not be applied to children who need financial support through the Program if the local government rejected the Program. To solve this problem, children attending foreign and national kindergartens should be applied to the Tuition-free System and necessary measures should be taken including the law revision for that purpose.

¹⁹ See Annex 7, *International schools left out of free preschool education start*

children can express their identity in public places free from fear of hate speech and hate crimes.

D. Backgrounds

40. Hate speech and hate crimes against children attending Korean schools have repeatedly occurred whenever the tension between Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea increased since the 1980s²⁰. In the 1990s, hate crimes such as ripping or cutting ethnic Korean uniform dresses of Korean school children in public places occurred frequently.²¹ Such a situation made them impossible to wear their ethnic uniform and express their identity in public places. Today, Korean school children have no choice but to wear Japanese school-style uniforms outside their schools to hide their identities.

41. According to the survey of 1,500 children of Korean origin attending Korean schools and Japanese schools conducted in 2015, 80% responded that they realized discrimination against Korean residents in Japan, and 37% recognized hate speech demonstrations on the internet.²² The survey also shows that 76% felt angry, and 46% felt fear at such demonstrations.²³

42. As of July 2022, no legislation prohibiting hate speech, hate crimes, and racial discrimination exists in Japan. While the anti-hate speech law was enacted in May 2016²⁴, it only clarified the basic principles of hate speech in Japan and does not prohibit hate speech.

43. Today, tons of pages of hate speech against Korean residents in Japan exist on the internet. Furthermore, a series of hate crimes against Korean residents, including cases of arson and vandalism, have occurred in recent years.²⁵

²⁰ CERD/C/304/Add.114, para 14, CERD/C/JPN/CO/3-6, para 13, E/CN.4/2006/16/Add.2, para 90.

²¹ See Annex 8, Picture of Korean traditional uniform dress of Korean school's female students

²² http://www.ryukoku.ac.jp/shukyo/committee/pdf/2015_01.pdf (available in Japanese language only)

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ http://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/m_jinken04_00001.html

²⁵ See Annex 9, Editorial of The Asahi Shimbun, "Worrying spike in hate crimes against Korean residents in Japan" (11 Jan, 2022)

Statement of President of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations objecting to exclusion of Korean Schools from applying Free High School tuition policy

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) announced a proposed amendment to ministerial ordinance on December 28th, 2012, which amends a part of enforcement regulations regarding tuition waiver for public high schools and tuition support fund for private high schools. As for the high schools where foreign students are enrolled such as international schools and ethnic schools, the current enforcement regulations define the subject for the policy as either high schools that are confirmed through its embassy to have curriculum equivalent to that of high schools in its native state, or high schools that are certified by international evaluation body, while the rest of the schools that are evaluated as having curriculum equivalent to that of Japanese high schools can be the recipient of the subsidies, whether or not Japan has diplomatic relations with its native state, after the minister of the MEXT designates each school individually. The proposed amendment is to delete the grounds for the individual designation.

Regarding the purpose of this revision, the minister of MEXT, Hakubun Shimomura, stated at the press conference on December 28th, 2012, that the proposed amendment is aimed at deleting the grounds for designating Korean schools because there is no progress to resolve the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) abduction of Japanese citizens, which makes it clear that this proposed amendment is aimed at excluding Korean Schools from applying the Tuition Waiver Program for High School Education..

As we stated in the "Statement on Subject High Schools of the Free Tuition Bill" on March 5th, 2010, the main purpose of this bill is "to contribute to the creation of equal educational opportunities by alleviating the financial burdens of high school education", which is also demanded by Article 28 of Convention on the Rights of the Child. Considering the fact that Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as International Bill of Human Rights (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) guarantee the right to receive education with ethnic identity being maintained, the current ministerial ordinance which would include international schools and ethnic schools is in a right direction. Furthermore, it is revealed through the process of the deliberation on the bill that, as the Government's collective view, the designation of high schools for foreign students should not be judged by diplomatic concern but should be judged objectively through educational perspective.

On the contrary this proposed amendment is to refuse to provide subsidies based on the grounds that there being no diplomatic relations between Japan and DPRK or no progress to resolve the DPRK's abduction issue, either of which has nothing to do with the right of the child to receive education. It is a discriminative treatment which is prohibited by Article 14 of the Constitution of Japan.

Korean Schools in Japan completed applying for the designation based on the current bill legitimately by the end of November, 2011, this upcoming amendment is to extinguish the regulations considered as the grounds for applying and refuse the Korean Schools' application retroactively after more than two years from the application, which poses serious doubt on its procedure.

The Japan Federation of Bar Associations strongly urges that the proposed amendment be withdrawn whilst the review of the application from Korean schools be concluded promptly based on the current law and screening standard.

February 1st, 2013
Kenji Yamagishi
President
Japan Federation of Bar Associations

EDITORIAL

THE JAPAN TIMES FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2013 11

Students are not political pawns

Because of North Korea's provocations following its third nuclear test on Feb. 12, the general affairs section of the board of education of Tokyo's Machida City on March 27 made a unilateral decision — unknown to board members or the city assembly — to not provide personal safety alarms to students at a pro-North Korean school in the city.

After reports of the decision surfaced April 4, the board of education was inundated with protest telephone calls and emails, prompting it to reverse the decision. On Monday, the first day of the new school year, the board sent alarms to the Nishi-Tokyo Korean Second Elementary and Junior High School, where 68 students study.

Even if the decision was made without the knowledge of the city government and the members of the board of education, they must accept responsibility for the poor judgment shown by the general affairs section, which smacked of discrimination against students of the Korean school. The head and workers of the general affairs section should be disciplined for their actions.

According to the school, the general affairs section's chief and other employees visited the school on March 28 and cited the current political situation and citizens' feelings stemming from North Korea's provocations as the reason for not providing alarms to its students. In doing so they demonstrated their complete failure to understand the principle that all students must be treated equally regardless of their nationality or ethnicity.

It should have been clear to them that punishing children in Japan for the provocative actions of Pyongyang is both utterly ludicrous and ethically repugnant.

In 2004, the board started providing safety alarms, each costing around ¥300, to first-year students of municipally run elementary schools. In a threatening situation, children activate the alarm, which sets off a loud noise to attract help.

The board has been giving out the alarms to students of private schools and the Korean school upon request. In February, the Korean school asked the board for 45 alarms.

After the board received more than 1,300 protest telephone calls and email messages, the board members held an emergency meeting and reversed the original decision by the general affairs section. They should be praised for their quick action to uphold the principle that it is the board of education's responsibility to ensure the safety of all children living in Machida City. They also agreed that the general affairs section should have consulted with them before making its original decision.

What happened in Machida is part of a bigger, very disturbing trend that is sweeping the country. Several prefectural governments have stopped subsidizing pro-North Korean schools. On Feb. 20, the Abe administration excluded pro-North Korean high schools from the government's tuition-waiver program. These decisions should be reversed. It is wrong to use children as political pawns, and doing so will only fan anti-Korean discrimination in Japan.

EDITORIAL

THE JAPAN TIMES FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2013 11

Treat all students equally

The education ministry on Feb. 20 revised an ordinance to exclude so-called Korean high schools or pro-North Korea high schools from the government's tuition-waiver program. This change will cause various problems.

First of all, the revision violates the principle of an education program designed to ensure that all high school students in Japan receive an education regardless of the financial condition of their families. Excluding children attending Korean high schools also violates the principle of equality under the law as stipulated by Article 14 of the Constitution.

The government will have difficulty justifying the decision as not discriminatory to students of Korean high schools because the tuition-waiver program covers so-called international schools and schools with close ties to China and South Korea as well.

The decision could also fan prejudice and intolerance in Japanese society toward people who have different views, especially with regard to historical issues.

Education minister Mr. Hakubun Shimomura said on Dec. 28 that the government would not be able to get the public to support a tuition-waiver program that includes pro-North Korea schools, because they have close ties with the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon), which acts as North Korea's de facto diplomatic mission in Tokyo, and because there has been no progress toward resolving the issue of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and '80s.

The Democratic Party of Japan government introduced the tuition-free program from fiscal 2010. There are 12 Korean high schools in Japan with about 1,800 students, including both South Korean and Japanese nationals, but two of the schools are virtually closed. Most national and private universities regard graduates of

these high schools as having the same qualification as graduates of Japanese high schools and allow them to take their entrance exams.

The DPJ government chose not to act on the tuition waiver for Korean high schools while it was in power. The education ministry's move last week reflects Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's tough stance against North Korea's rocket launches and nuclear-weapons tests as well as the abduction issue.

Even if pro-North Korea high schools were covered by the tuition-waiver program, the schools themselves would not be financially supported by the Japanese government. The beneficiaries are individual children who have to pay tuition. The ministry's decision targets them.

Children attending Korean high schools have had nothing to do with North Korea's nuclear weapons program or the abduction of Japanese nationals. Excluding them will not help to resolve these problems. The right of foreign residents of Japan to study their own languages and history of their countries at schools they have established also should be upheld. That said, it would be helpful if Korean schools made greater efforts to make themselves transparent through class visits and other activities.

The government should heed the words of Mr. Shigeru Yokota, the father of Ms. Megumi Yokota, who was abducted in 1978 by a North Korean agent. Tokyo Shimbun quoted him as saying: "It is unreasonable to discriminate against second- and third-generation Koreans living legally in Japan. I would like Korean schools to sufficiently teach the abduction issue. But I think it is unreasonable to make the children take responsibility (for the abductions)."

The government should also consider what the international community will say about the decision. Criticism of Japan will likely be strong.

Annex 3

Policy Speech by the Governor of Tokyo, Shintaro Ishihara, at the First Regular Session of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, 2012

(Subsidies for North Korean schools)

Moving on, I would like to discuss the subject of subsidies to North Korean schools.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government provides subsidies to “miscellaneous category” schools that educate foreign children in order to help defray their operational costs. This is because having foreign nationals deepen their understanding of Japan and develop an attachment to our country is also very meaningful for Japan’s future.

However, this becomes a totally different story in the case of schools that are indicated to have a close affiliation with Chongryon, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, which is under the influence of the North Korean government, which abducted Japanese citizens, and when there are doubts about the school’s curriculum and political neutrality. Because of such reasons, we have decided not to include subsidies for North Korean schools in our budget. We will continue thorough investigations into the management and curriculum of these schools.

<http://www.metro.tokyo.jp/ENGLISH/GOVERNOR/ARC/20121031/SPEECH/2012/fgm57103.htm>

Annex 4

Yokohama Stops Subsidies for Chongryon Schools

The Japanese city of Yokohama has decided to stop annual subsidies to pro-North Korean schools this year, citing North Korea's nuclear test and other provocations, the Tokyo Shimbun daily reported Wednesday.

The schools are affiliated with the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan or Chongryon, a Pyongyang mouthpiece.

The education committee in Yokohama informed three of the Chongryon schools in the city last week that they would not be receiving the subsidy of 2.5 million yen set aside in this year's budget.

They include two primary and one secondary school.

Yokohama Mayor Fumiko Hayashi said she is halting the subsidies as long as the issues of "North Korea's nuclear weapons development and abduction of Japanese citizens remain unresolved."

Earlier in February, the Japanese government cut Chongryon schools out of federal subsidies. Seven regional governments, including Saitama and Hiroshima, have followed suit.

The Chosunilbo

englishnews@chosun.com / Oct. 31, 2013 12:32 KST

http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2013/10/31/2013103101641.html

27 Monkasai No.171
29 March, Heisei 28 [2016]

Dear Governor of Hokkaido, Tokyo, Osaka and other 24 prefectures

Minister of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology
Hiroshi HASE

**Attention with regard to the provision of local government subsidies to
North Korean schools (Notice)**

Although the Government of Japan does not provide the subsidies to North Korean schools, some local governments provide them according to the laws and ordinances on its own responsibility and judgement.

As for North Korean schools, the government recognizes that Chosen Soren, which is an organization having a close relationship with North Korean, attaches importance to their education and influences their educational content, personnel affairs and finance.

In this regard, I would like to request local governments to examine the public nature of subsidies with respect to North Korean schools and their effects in terms of educational proportion thoroughly, to ensure appropriate and transparent administration of subsidies in accordance with their intent and purpose and to appropriately provide information on the intent and purpose of the subsidies to their citizens, taking the aforesaid characteristics of the operation of North Korean schools into account, as well as considering the effect on the children attending such schools.

In addition, I would like to request local governments to inform relevant municipal departments within the area of this attention. Lastly, I would like to add that the content of this attention was already consulted with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Translated by: Human Rights Association for Korean Residents in Japan (HURAK)

Rethink Korean school subsidies, government tells prefectures

March 30, 2016
THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

In a move that could further strain relations with North Korea, the central government has ordered prefectural governments to rethink their subsidies to Korean schools affiliated with a pro-Pyongyang residents group.

At a news conference on March 29, education minister Hiroshi Hase said that the written instruction aims to remind prefectural governments of points to keep in mind in granting subsidies to schools affiliated with the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryon).

While Hase emphasized that the directive “does not aim to make prefectural governments slash or terminate subsidies,” he said that the ministry will keep track of how the prefectural governments respond to the instruction.

The education ministry issued the instruction to 28 prefectural governments across Japan to re-evaluate the public benefits and effectiveness of subsidies to 68 Korean elementary, junior and senior high schools, six of which are temporarily closed due to the declining number of students.

The directive, signed by Hase, also said that the schools’ curriculum and personnel matters are “under influence of Chongryon, which has a close relationship with North Korea.”

The rare move came after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party asked the ministry to instruct prefectural governments to suspend subsidies to Korean schools from June last year as part of sanctions against Pyongyang’s abduction of Japanese nationals and its recent nuclear tests.

Muneyuki Shindo, a professor emeritus of public administration studies at Chiba University, criticized the ministry’s move because the instruction could serve as a de facto order for prefectural governments to terminate subsidies to Korean schools.

“The prefectural governments will be put under strong pressure because they will fear that the ministry may cut other subsidies depending on how they respond to the instruction,” Shindo said.

“Korean ethnic schools do not function as venues to spread pro-North Korean ideology, and the government must treat them separately from their diplomatic policy toward North Korea.”

(This article was written by Yukihiro Takahama and Kenji Katayama.)

THE ASAHI SHIMBUN

http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind_news/politics/AJ201603300046



Korean residents in Japan and their supporters rally in front of the Nagoya city office to protest Mayor Takashi Kawamura's plan to reduce subsidies to Korean schools on March 9. (Asahi Shimbun file photo)

International schools left out of free preschool education start

THE ASAHI SHIMBUN September 27, 2019 at 17:20 JST <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201909270046.html>



Parents of Korean children march in Osaka's Kita Ward on Sept. 26 to demand eligibility for a new tuition-free program for kindergarten and nursery schools.



Song He Suk, left, representative of a parents' association of Korean kindergartens, and other members hold a news conference to demand that miscellaneous schools be made eligible for a new tuition-free program on Sept. 26 at the education ministry in Tokyo's Kasumigaseki district.

Although the government pledged free preschool education across the nation starting Oct. 1, kindergartens and nursery schools connected with international schools, including Korean schools, will not be eligible.

About 30 parents whose children attend kindergartens attached to pro-Pyongyang schools for ethnic Koreans in Japan from 18 prefectures held a news conference on Sept. 26 at the education ministry in Tokyo's Kasumigaseki district to express their concerns.

Under the tuition-free program for kindergartens and nursery schools, targeting kids aged between 3 and 5, their fees will be subsidized by the government.

However, international schools that are categorized as "miscellaneous schools" are excluded from the program, including schools for ethnic Koreans.

"We don't understand why only miscellaneous schools are excluded from the program," said Song He Suk, representative of a parents' association of Korean kindergartens.

On the same day, the association submitted letters to the Cabinet Office, welfare ministry and others to demand that miscellaneous schools be made eligible for the free preschool education program.

"The government excluded (our kindergartens) without knowing the reality there and it is unreasonable," Song said.

According to the government and other sources, about 55,000 facilities across Japan are eligible for the tuition-free program. Kindergartens and nursery schools are deemed eligible, as well as unlicensed nurseries.

Excluded from the program are 88 miscellaneous schools' kindergartens, of which 40 are attached to Korean schools.

The excluded schools can be ruled eligible if they give up their preschools as miscellaneous schools and apply to be unlicensed nurseries by the start of the program in October.

In an international school in the Tokai region, its kindergarten, elementary, junior high and high schools are classified as miscellaneous schools. But as miscellaneous schools are not eligible for the program, the school will apply for its kindergarten, for ages 3 to 5, to become an unlicensed nursery.

Currently, 13 children are enrolled in the kindergarten of the international school at a monthly cost of more than 40,000 yen (\$371) per enrollee. Parents are unhappy that the school does not qualify for the tuition-free program like most other kindergartens.

"We are going to resolve it," a staff member said. "We are glad that the financial burden of parents will be reduced."

However, kindergartens attached to Korean schools won't take such measures like the international school. The subsidy for unlicensed nurseries is only provided to households that require their children to be taken care of, such as in cases where both parents work.

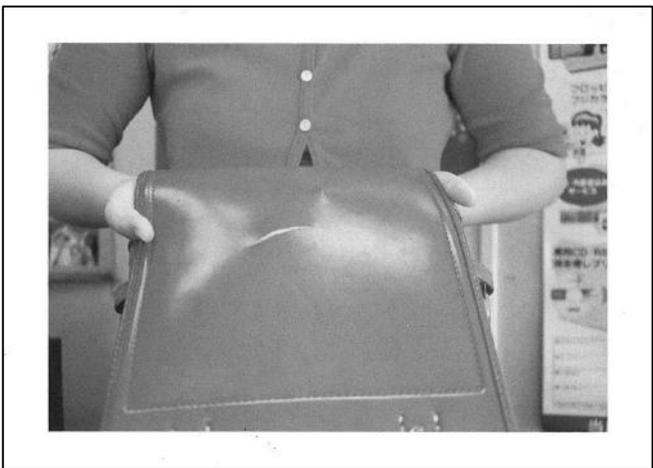
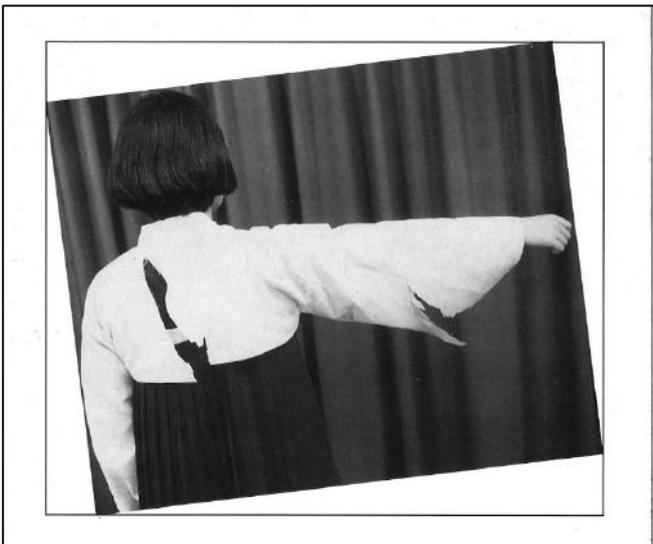
"Among parents, there are many whose eligibility for subsidies have not been allowed," a staff member said. "Gaps are created between parents."

Han Yon Shin, 40, chief of the kindergarten of a Korean school in Tokyo's Arakawa Ward where about 50 children aged 2-5 have been attending, said, "Our school serves roles as both a kindergarten and a nursery school."

"It is unfair that miscellaneous schools are excluded from the program although families whose kids attend Korean preschools have also paid taxes, which is a source of funding for the program."

Annex 8

Pictures of ripped uniform dress and a school bag of Korean school children



【身障者特集】朝鮮学校生への難から世間

児童生徒13人が被害 在日朝鮮人にいながらせ

八幡西区
チヨゴリ切られる
朝鮮初中級
学校生徒、通学
のバス車中で

18日午後8時、八幡西区のチヨゴリ切られるバスで、朝鮮初中級学校（以下、朝鮮中）の生徒13人が被害を受けた。被害者は、バスの中で暴行を受けた。この事件は、在日朝鮮人の子どもたちに対する差別行為と見られる。...

朝鮮中校に
京都市謝罪

京都市は、この事件について謝罪の意を示した。また、被害者の治療費や慰謝料を支払う意向を示している。...

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EDITORIAL: Worrying spike in hate crimes against Korean residents in Japan

January 11, 2022 at 13:50 JST

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14519025>

A rash of attacks against facilities linked to Korean residents in Japan, including cases of arson and vandalism, cannot be allowed to pass unnoticed.

Some of the incidents are still under investigation. The attacks, by and large, seem to fall under the vile category of hate crimes motivated by a bias against people or groups with specific characteristics like race, gender and national origin. Such behavior can never be condoned.

In December, a man in his 20s was arrested and indicted over a case of arson in August that gutted seven residences, including empty ones, in the Utoro district of Uji city in Kyoto Prefecture that is home to about 90 ethnic Koreans from roughly 50 households. Although the motive for the attack and other factors behind the crime have yet to be disclosed, the man was also arrested and indicted for a fire in July that destroyed an area of the Aichi prefectural headquarters of the pro-Seoul Korean Residents Union in Japan (Mindan) in the city of Nagoya.



The site of an arson attack apparently targeting Korean residents in the Utoro district in Uji, Kyoto Prefecture, on Aug. 30, 2021 (Asahi Shimbun file photo)

During World War II, Korean laborers drafted to build an airfield lived in the Utoro district, which to this day hosts a sizable community of zainichi Koreans with permanent residence status.

A new facility to exhibit materials related to the history of the district and the role Korean residents played is set to open this spring. But a host of documents and materials, such as signboards, being prepared for display were destroyed in the fire.

Soon after the man was arrested for the Utoro fire, windowpanes at the entrance to Mindan's Hiraoka branch in Higashiosaka, Osaka Prefecture, were smashed. Police are still investigating the matter.

The background to these crimes needs to be clarified as soon as possible by bringing the cases to trial.

It hardly needs to be said that despicable crimes such as these, which have put local residents on edge, cannot be tolerated. Another matter of deep concern is a flood of online posts that support the actions and criticize the victims.

It is hard to brush aside the disturbing suspicion that hatred and discrimination against Korean residents in Japan was the trigger for the incidents.

More than five years have passed since a law came into force to crack down on hate speech. No provision to punish offenders was included in the law out of consideration for the constitutional right to freedom of speech. But seeing as the law failed to quell serious cases, the city of Kawasaki introduced, after careful consideration, a municipal ordinance providing for criminal punishment against such acts.

While blatant hate speech on city streets and other acts have subsided, discriminatory comments are still rampant on the internet and other public forums of speech.

During a discussion meeting held in Kyoto at the end of last year in response to the arson attack in Utoro, one participant said what should be feared most is "social indifference" to the problem.

Commenting on the arson attack during a news conference, Uji Mayor Astuko Matsumura said such acts "should never be forgiven, no matter what." Local communities and administrations across the nation need to work with the central government to continue taking actions that demonstrate their collective will to eradicate hate speech and crimes.

Japan has many Korean residents due to its colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, the background of which is behind the long-running issue to press Japan to pay compensation to wartime Korean laborers.

The new facility to showcase the history of the Utoro district, which is due to open shortly, is designed to be a venue that promotes awareness of the importance of human rights and good-neighborliness, as well as the implications of how people of different backgrounds co-exist in society.

Japanese need to strive to build a society which embraces diversity by recognizing that Korean residents have become their partners in local communities through many years of historical twists and turns.

--The Asahi Shimbun, Jan. 10