

October 5, 2008

ALAI 2008, Executive Committee, Dubrovnik
Report from Japan

Becoming effective of “The Law on the Promotion of Propagation of Particular Books to be used for School Subjects for Disabled Pupils and Students”: September 17, 2008 (2008, Law no. 81)

1. Purpose of the law

1) Securing equal opportunity of education

2) To make school education sufficiently available for all pupils (primary schools) and students (junior high), regardless of disability, by promoting varied school materials (e.g. enlarged-print textbooks for weak-eye-sighted students, braille books, and other special type textbooks, electronic materials, vocal texts) to be used by those disabled children.

2. Expansion of a limitation of copyright for reproduction for enlarged printing for weak-eye-sighted students (Art.33 bis of the Copyright Law)

1) for those pupils or students who are visually impaired, development-troubled, or troubled with other type of disability, and for whom it is difficult to use the works included in school textbooks.

2) works included in the school textbooks may be reproduced by enlarging letters and/or figures, etc. and by other necessary measures for the particular disabled pupil or student.

3) the publisher of this type of reproduction shall notify beforehand the publisher of the original textbook of the necessary processing.

4) the publisher of this type of reproduced school materials shall pay the compensation money, if it aims for profit.