

Q

Why was the Sapporo City Ordinance for Building a Community Where Everyone Can Connect with Each Other and Coexist enacted?

A

Sapporo has implemented numerous initiatives aimed at realizing a society of coexistence and globalization to address issues such as the declining birthrate and aging population. However, the city still faces challenges such as those listed below, each of which is intricately intertwined with the others. To address these problems, it is necessary to promote initiatives not only through the city government but also in collaboration with citizens and businesses. This ordinance was enacted with objectives such as sharing the Basic Approaches (Fundamental Principles) for these initiatives.

Major Challenges Facing Sapporo

Increasing elderly population

By the 2040s, the elderly population is expected to peak, accounting for approximately 40% of the total population.



Understanding towards persons with disabilities

Only about 30% of people believe their community is easy for people with disabilities to live in, which reflects a low level of accessibility.



Diminishing community awareness

Community awareness is weakening, as evidenced by factors such as the low percentage of citizens who consider community development activities important.



Understanding towards the rights of children

Only about 60% of children feel that their rights are being respected.



Understanding towards the Ainu people

While awareness of the cultural aspects of the Ainu people is high, understanding of their historical background remains limited.



Biased sense of equality in the status of men and women

Awareness towards gender equality in various settings such as the workplace and family life remains low.



Increase in foreign residents

The number of foreign residents has nearly doubled over the past decade. Due to national labor policies and other factors, the number of foreign residents living in the city is expected to continue increasing.



*The figures above are those at the time the ordinance was enacted.

Let's work together to achieve a community where everyone can be connected with each other and coexist together.



Sapporo City Ordinance for Building a Community Where Everyone Can Connect with Each Other and Coexist

Effective April 1, 2025



Scan here for the full text of the ordinance and other detailed information



This leaflet provides a clear explanation of the complete text of the Sapporo City Ordinance for Building a Community Where Everyone Can Connect with Each Other and Coexist.

Contact information
Universal Urban Planning Office,
City Development Policy Planning Bureau
 Phone: 011-211-2361
 E-mail: ki.universal@city.sapporo.jp



Q What is the “society of coexistence” that Sapporo aims to achieve?

A The ordinance defines a society of coexistence as “a society free from discrimination and prejudice, where everyone’s individuality is respected, everyone can demonstrate their abilities, and diversity and inclusivity are strengths.” Sapporo aims to realize this society of coexistence, create a city where everyone connects with each other and coexists together, and pass this legacy on to future generations.

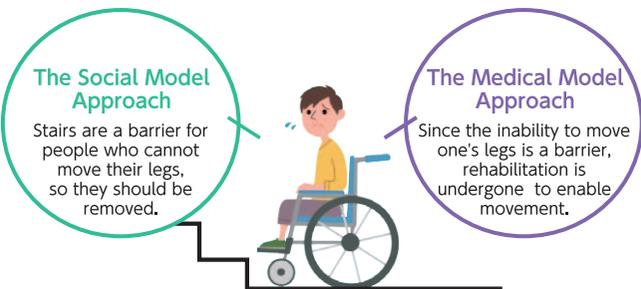
Theme: ~Name of Ordinance~



The name of this ordinance embodies our aspiration to create a “community where everyone can connect with each other and coexist” and pass it on to future generations.

Note: Of course, some people prefer to be alone, and this is a valid feeling that must be respected. The phrase “everyone can connect with each other” in the ordinance’s title also implies having access to support networks, allowing individuals to seek advice or other assistance when facing difficulties.

Theme: ~The Social Model of Disability~



The Social Model of Disability believes that the idea that “disability = barrier” is created through the reciprocal interaction between an individual’s physical or mental limitations and societal barriers (physical, institutional, cultural, information-based, and awareness-related). It holds that removing these societal barriers is society’s responsibility. This concept applies not only to the field of disabilities but also to various societal barriers arising from all kinds of differences.

Q What are the Basic Approaches (Fundamental Principles) for initiatives aimed at realizing a society of coexistence?

A The ordinance establishes the following Fundamental Principles.

Fundamental Principle 1

Everyone’s uniqueness and abilities should be recognized as an individual entitled to fundamental human rights
People all have various differences,

including their values and ways of thinking. Furthermore, the active participation of a diverse workforce leads to the creation of new value, such as technological innovation. Therefore, in future community development, it is essential that individuals engage in ongoing dialogue across various settings, placing themselves in each other’s shoes to gain a more in-depth understanding of their differences so that everyone can be their true selves and play an active role.



Fundamental Principle 2

Everyone should be able to live with peace of mind, free from social isolation, through mutual understanding, support, and assistance

Many people experience some form of difficulty in their daily lives. Therefore, based on the concept of the “Social Model of Disability,” it is necessary for society as a whole to eliminate the barriers that make life difficult for everyone, so that no one is isolated from society and can live with peace of mind.



Fundamental Principle 3

The city government, citizens, and businesses should mutually recognize their respective responsibilities and roles, and work together in collaboration and cooperation

Realizing a society of coexistence requires the cooperation and collaboration of every individual. Therefore, it is crucial for the city government, citizens, and businesses to work together to build a society of coexistence and pass this legacy on to the next generation.



Q What kind of initiatives will the city government be undertaking?

A Based on our Fundamental Principles, we will comprehensively and systematically promote measures aimed at realizing a society of coexistence. We will also establish a framework for promoting these measures.

Initiatives Aimed at Achieving a Society of Coexistence (Examples)

- ① Establishment of facilities and other infrastructure that take diversity into account, enabling everyone to live in a safe manner with peace of mind
- ② Support for the establishment of facilities and other infrastructure that take diversity into account, enabling everyone to live in a safe manner with peace of mind, undertaken by citizens or businesses
- ③ Support tailored to the needs of individuals requiring consideration in their daily or social lives
- ④ Providing easy-to-understand information on individual businesses and various systems
- ⑤ Promoting awareness-raising and public relations activities to foster mutual understanding, support, and assistance among all individuals, and to advance other initiatives toward realizing a society of coexistence
- ⑥ Other measures necessary for achieving a society of coexistence



Q What roles do citizens and businesses have?

A The ordinance defines the roles of citizens and businesses as follows.

Roles of Citizens and Businesses

- ① Citizens shall strive to undertake initiatives toward realizing a society of coexistence within their homes, workplaces, schools, communities, and other settings.
- ② Businesses shall endeavor to implement initiatives aimed at realizing a society of coexistence in their activities.
- ③ Citizens and businesses shall work to cooperate with the city government’s policies.

Specific examples

- Understand that everyone is different, and show consideration to those in need.
 - Participate in community activities (neighborhood associations, school events, etc.).
 - Participate in workshops, opinion exchange meetings, and other events held by the city.
- These are just a few of the examples of the many things you can do.

