

Purpose for the Establishment of the Association

Article 25 of the Constitution of Japan, enacted in 1946, provides, "All people shall have the right to maintain the minimum standards of wholesome and cultured living." It means that Japanese people have the right to keep these minimum standards as a basic human right. Section 2 of this Article provides, "In all spheres of life, the State shall use its endeavors for the promotion and extension of social welfare and security, and of public health." Article 25 of the Constitution provides a basis for the Japanese social security system. Medical insurance and pensions for all people were legalized in 1961. In the 1960's, each social security system, such as medical service, pension, workers' compensation insurance was reformed drastically. Consequently, the Japanese social security system improved substantially. However, the social security system showed signs of going backwards when the Japan entered a period of low economic growth during the oil shock of 1973. Faced with the coming aging society, review of the social security system became a matter of great social concern.

Given the above background, in 1977, mainly social security law scholars established a study group of social security law to reform the social security system to protect and assure the social security rights of people. This study group held its first inaugural meeting *Aging Society and Problems of Employment and Pensions* (in Kyoto) in October, 1977. Until the 9th congress (in Osaka) in October of 1981, congresses had been held along with the Japan Association of Labor Law.

In May, 1982, at the 10th Congress (in Ehime) on *Legal Problems of Aging Welfare and Healthcare*, the Japan Association of the Social Security Law was established. The rules of the Association including the election rule of the directors and auditors were proposed at that time. Until now, the congresses of the association have been held in spring and autumn, and the *Journal of Social Security Law* has been published annually. Many members of the association have also attended various international congresses.