Framework and Challenges of Financial Education in Japan

April 8, 2014 Ryoko Okazaki, Bank of Japan & the Central Council for Financial Services Information

1. Framework: (1)National Strategies of Financial Education in Japan

Japanese National Strategies for Financial Education:

a. "Financial Education Program" (2007)

b. "Report of Study Group on Financial Education" (2013)

Definition of Financial Education

- Financial education
 - provides knowledge on various functions of money and the role of economic and financial transactions,
 - deepens thoughts on the daily life and the society,
 - improves lifestyle and the sense of values, and
 - cultivates the ability to act independently for the better life and the construction of better society.

--- CCFSI, "Financial Education Program" (2007).

1. Framework: (1)National Strategies of Financial Education in Japan

NSs define the contents to be learned:

---- Contents of financial education to be learned by each age group in schools were described in "Financial Education Program" (2007).

--- The SG defined the minimum requirements of financial literacy (15 items) in the Report (2013).

1. Framework: (1)National Strategies of Financial Education in Japan

Committee for the Promotion of Financial Education, established by the CCFSI (June 2013) :

- a. Objective: to promote financial education by using the network of the CCFSI
- Membership: experts, the representatives from associations of financial institutions and the representatives from related authorities
- \Rightarrow defined what to be learned by each age group.

Goals of Financial Education in Schools

- Understanding that the resources are limited.
- Understanding the basics of decision making.
- Understanding the significance of savings and aquiring the habit of saving.
- Understanding the risks and returns of various financial products.
- Understanding the necessity of life planning.

--- CCFSI , "Financial Education Program" (2007).

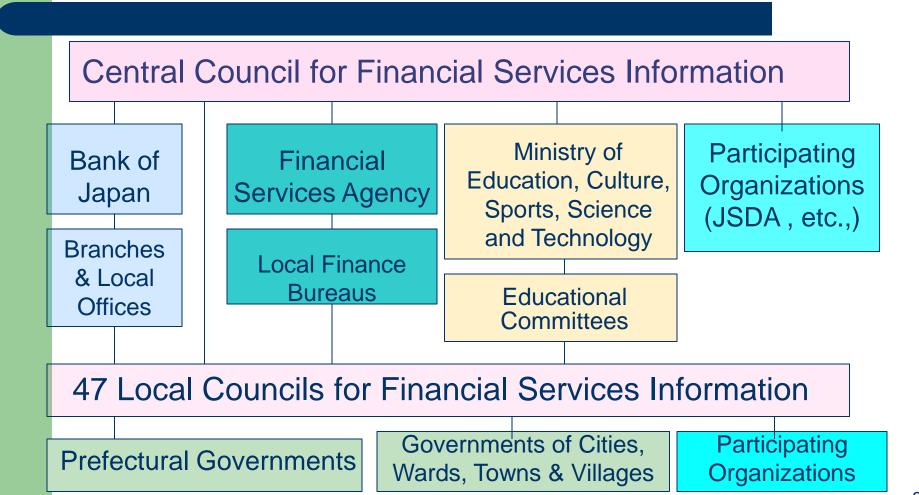
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Financial Literacy to be Achieved

- Family budget management
- Life planning
- Understanding of financial knowledge and financial/economic circumstances, and selection/use of appropriate financial products
- Appropriate use of outside expertise

--- JFSA, "Report of the Study Group on Financial Education" (2013).

1. Framework: (2) Organizations to Promote Financial Education in Japan



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Grass-roots organizations to promote financial education:

Central Council for Financial Services Information

47 Local Councils for Financial Services Information

Schools for Financial Education: 109 Financial Study Groups: 47 Financial Services Information Advisers: 470

As of March 2014

1. Framework: (3) Promotion of Financial Education

---CCFSI, LCFSI's and other institutions organize:
a . Seminars for teachers
b. Festa for kids and parents to learn about money



c. Essay contests for students and teachersd. Seminars for adults

1. Framework: (3)Promotion of Financial Education

 ---CCFSI, LCFSI's and other institutions provide:
e. Educational materials, teachers' guide, and excellent teaching practices

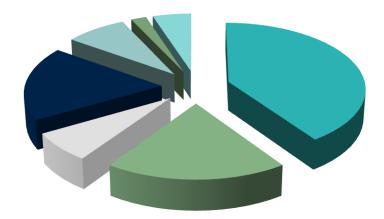
f. Information on the internet





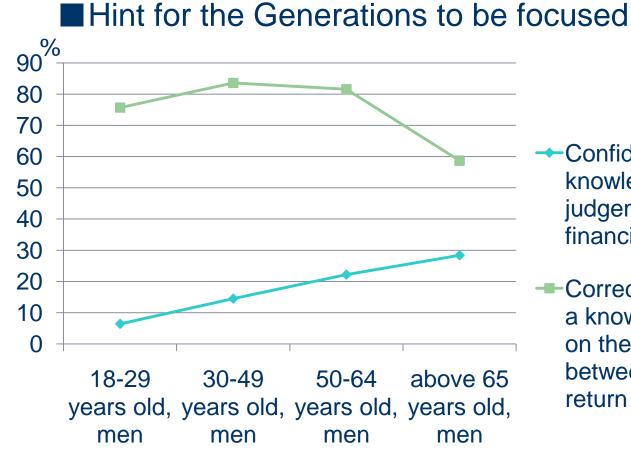
1. Framework: (4) Effectiveness Measurement

Change of the attitudes of teachers who attended the seminar on financial education



- Feel stronger needs for financial education than before(40%)
- Used the methods I learned at this seminar in my class(19%)
- Other teachers in my school used the methods introduced at this seminar
- Started to actively discuss about financial education with my colleagues 12

1. Framework: (5) Financial Literacy Survey



- -Confident about my knowledge and judgement concerning financial matter
- Correct anser rate for a knowledge question on the relation between risk and return

2. Challenges

(1) Difficulties to reach elderly people

(2) Difficulties to reach working people

(3) Tightness of the school curricula



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