

The 13th ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies

Panel Discussion #3

“Employment support and creation for the affected people
during the reconstruction phase”

Actions Taken for Recovery from Disaster by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan in terms of Employment and Labour Policies

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Areas of Policies/Actions for Recovery From the Damage Caused by Natural Disaster in Terms of Employment and Labour Issues

Major examples of area of actions

Support for
re-creation of
job/employment

Aid for loss of job
(unemployment
benefits)

Prevention of
accidents in the
recovery-work

Vocational
trainings to
engage new
types of job

Special support
for vulnerable
workers/people

Workers' accident
compensation
benefits to the
victims

Consultation and inquiry on labour/employment related issues

Measures for Retrieving Employment (1)

Natural disaster threatens employment and livelihood by crushing basis of business

Subsidy for employment

- Subsidize to the private companies etc. in the devastated region when they hire a worker

Flexible application of unemployment benefits

- Make the unemployment benefits based on employment insurance scheme receivable in accordance with suspension of operation etc.

Measures for Retrieving Employment (2)

Vocational trainings with “agility”

- Foreseeing increase of demand of construction business and its workers of devastated area, vocational training course for manipulating construction machinery are conducted

Special support towards ex-farmers

- Although people engaged in agriculture, fishery, forestry are usually not supposed to be visitors of employment security office, special support whose livelihood were damaged by disaster

Measures for Retrieving Employment (3)

Waiver of premium of employment insurance etc.

- In order to prioritize payment of salary to the workers, payment of premium of employment insurance and workers' accident compensation insurance by the business owners are exempted in certain cases

Special support for persons with disabilities

- Special attention and support for employment is offered for the workers/persons with disabilities

Measures for preventing accidents in the construction work for recovery (1)

- The construction or demolition work for the recovery of affected area entails danger
- However, work for recovery is indispensable to retrieve the livelihoods in the region
- Answer is simple; Do it Safe
- Still, works are intensive and workers are not necessarily well trained, thus risk remains

Affirmative preventive measures of accident or disease on recovery should be taken to avoid recurrence of tragedy or loss of workforce in the society

Measures for preventing accidents in the demolition work for recovery (2)

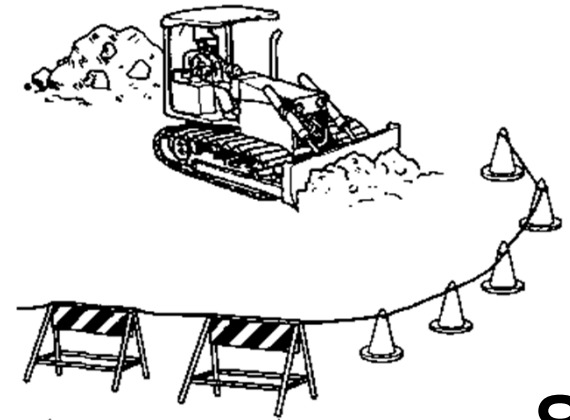
- As the earthquake or tsunami hit the region, buildings/houses are often damaged and sometimes have to be demolished to re-build the new building or prevent to be collapsed
- But the buildings/houses are already damaged, therefore demolition works carry high risk to be collapsed and cause accident to workers



Measures for preventing accidents in the demolition work for recovery (3)

For mitigation of the risk of accidents....

- Careful planning for demolition/construction is crucial
- Appropriate protective equipment are meaningful
- People not directly involved should be removed
- Avoid falling/slipping down of worker or goods from high place is one of the key issues
- Collision of a person to construction machine causes severe damage
- Inhaling particles/dusts including airborne asbestos may affect health of workers



Assistance Measures inside the Ministry

- In case of disaster, officials working/living in the affected area themselves are also victims
- Although officers continue to be in charge of the official duties, the workloads usually burgeon
- Offices/units in other areas of the ministry dispatch officials to the affected area to respond to the increased demands of manpower

Such a measure is not necessarily easy to be taken, however, effectively works to prevent the offices in affected area totally be exhausted

Clues

- Always keep in mind “Disaster may happen some day” and keep prepared
- It is sure that the urgent rescue is indispensable in case of catastrophe, however, continuing livelihood will be subsequently needed
- Flexible but steady policies and actions are indispensable to make affected people be revitalized