

Press Release (This is provisional translation. Please refer to the original text written in Japanese.)

27 April 2011

Employment Policy Division

Employment Security Bureau

To the press and whom it may concern,

“‘Japan as One’ Work Project”

- Countermeasures Phase 2 compiled at the “Conference on promotion of employment support and job creation for the disaster victims”

The “Conference on promotion of employment support and job creation for the disaster victims” (chaired by Yoko Komiyama, Vice-Minister of the Health, Labour and Welfare) was established with the purpose of formulating the overall countermeasures across the ministries to promote employment support and job creation for the disaster victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and to strongly push ahead the measures. Through the Conference, the whole government has made effort in deciding the countermeasures to support the disaster victims’ employment and living.

The “‘Japan as One’ Work Project” Phase 1, defined as tentative emergency overall countermeasures, has already ensured employment opportunities for around 44,000 people. This press release is to announce that the Countermeasures Phase 2 has been compiled at the Conference in order to take measures according to the supplementary budget and new legislation.

Through the implementation of the Countermeasures Phase 2, it is expected that employment will be created and supported for a total of more than 1.7 million people. Thus, employment assistance and job creation are steadily promoted further.

【The main points of the Countermeasures Phase 2】

< Progress situation of the implementation of Countermeasures Phase 1 >

The Countermeasures Phase 1 has ensured employment opportunities, including job offers and job openings, for about 44,000 people.

< Overall countermeasures according to the supplementary budget and new legislations >

- ① Steadily creating jobs through reconstruction projects
 - Promoting the reconstruction projects
 - Increasing the funds for the Project on Job Creation in Priority Areas
- ② Assistance for disaster victims' new employment
 - Further expanding the subsidies for companies that hire the disaster victims
- ③ Maintaining employment and establishing stability in life for the disaster victims
 - Further expanding the Employment Adjustment Subsidies
 - Assisting the reconstruction of small and medium enterprises, farmers and fishermen, the environmental health industry, etc.
 - Further expanding the extended payments of employment insurance benefits

< Employment creation and support through the implementation of Phase 2 >

A total of 4,296.6 billion yen is generated.

Employment is created for around 200,000 people.

Employment is supported for over 1.5 million people.

Phase 2 of the “‘Japan as One’ Work Project”

- Supporting your employment and living through “Japan as One”- (The Countermeasures Phase 2 compiled at the “Conference on promotion of employment support and job creation for disaster victims”)

April 27, 2011

Overall countermeasures according to the supplementary budget and new legislations

Steady creation of employment through reconstruction projects
(An economic impact of 2,544 billion yen is generated and jobs are created for 200,000 people.)

◎Promotion of reconstruction projects

- Disaster restoration work on public civil engineering facilities (rivers, seacoasts, roads, ports, sewage lines, etc.), airports, public housings, water supply systems, industrial water supply systems, and waste disposal facilities.
- Construction/improvement of disaster public housings and repair work on public civil engineering facilities
- Restoration support for agricultural lands/facilities, coastal forests/forest lands, fishing ports/ boats, and aquaculture facilities
- Disaster restoration work on facilities for medical care, nursing care, children, disabled people, and vocational capability development
- Disaster restoration work on school facilities
- Emergency restoration of the administrative functions of municipalities
- Restoration of fire fighting facilities
- Construction of temporary housings
- Disposal of disaster wastes (clearing of rubble, etc.).

◎Expansion of the Job Creation Fund Projects

- Increase the funds for the project on job creation in priority areas and expand them.

Assistance for disaster victims’ new employment
(An economic impact of 15.8 billion yen is generated, and 60,000 people’s

employment is supported.)

◎ **Expansion of subsidies for companies that hire disaster victims**

- Adding unemployed people affected by the disaster to those eligible to receive subsidies provided to companies hiring the unemployed affected by the disaster (“Employment Development Subsidies for Specific Job Seekers”).

○ **Expansion of vocational training**

- Expanding the public vocational training in areas related to construction etc.
- Exempting the fees of vocational training for school graduates and employed people.

○ **Fully enforce disaster prevention measures for reconstruction work**

○ **Conduct on-site counseling services at evacuation centers and develop employment opportunities corresponding to the needs for disaster victims**

- Strengthen Public Employment Security Offices’ on-site counseling services on employment, and increase in the number of special staff promoting the development of job opportunities.

○ **Support for job seekers in a wide area**

- Increase the budget on the expenses for having interviews and relocation outside the affected areas.

○ **Employment support for newly graduates in the affected areas**

Maintaining employment and securing stability in life for the disaster victims.

(An economic impact of 1,736.9 billion yen is generated. Specifically, 1,460,000 people’s employment is supported, and stability in life is established for 430,000 people.)

◎ **Expansion of the Employment Adjustment Subsidies**

- When businesses are closed during the special eligible period (1 year), employers are eligible for a maximum 300 days of subsidies payments.

- Extension of the provision of temporary measures (Persons insured for a period of less than six months are eligible.)

○ **Exemption of various insurance premiums**

- Exemption of various insurance premiums, including medical insurance, elderly care insurance, labour insurance, and welfare pension insurance.

◎ **Support for the management reconstruction of the management of small-and-medium enterprises, farmers and fishermen, and the environmental health industry.**

◎ **Expansion of the extended payments of employment insurance benefits**

- Further extending the number of days during which payments for employment insurance benefits are paid in addition to the present case-by-case extended payments of employment insurance benefits (60 days).

○ **Facilitating claiming for reimbursement on unpaid wages and making speedy payments**

- Increase the budget, and simplify application procedures.

The impact of job creation and support for employment through the Countermeasures Phase 2

Economically, a total of 4,296.6 billion yen is generated.

Jobs are created for around 200,000 people.

Over 1,500,000 people's employment is supported.