

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

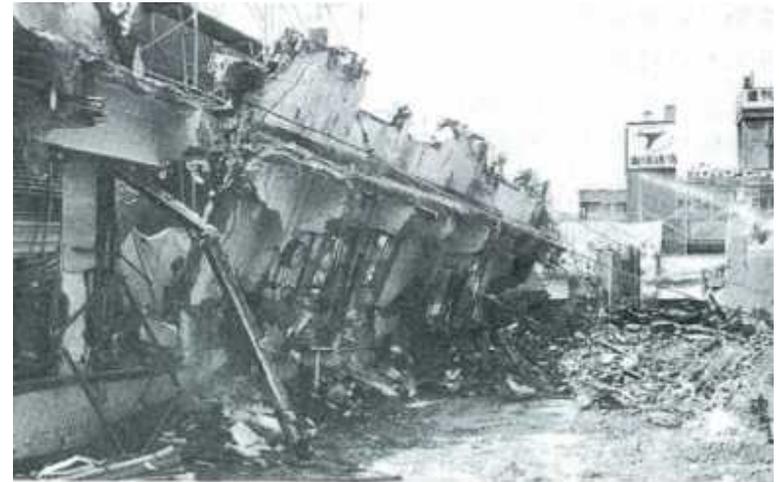
# Measures for preventing accidents in the construction work for recovery (1)

- 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)

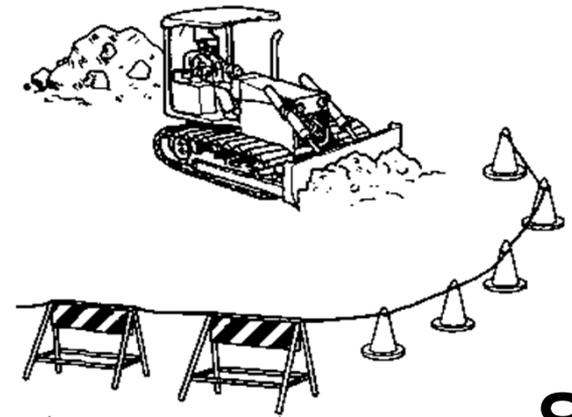
- As the earthquake or tsunami hit the region, buildings/houses are often damaged and sometimes have to be demolished to re-build the new building or prevent to be collapsed
- But the buildings/houses are already damaged, therefore demolition works carry high risk to be collapsed and cause accident to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