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Lessons on Recovery from Mega-Disasters for Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction

~ Employment and Livelihoods ~

**International Recovery Forum
and
The Fourth Expert Group Meeting on the Great East Japan Earthquake**

21-22 January 2013, Kobe

ILO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand



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An evacuee with his vendor shop opened in an evacuation centre, Cagayan de Oro, December 2011



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Temporary information desk for job seeker
Minami-sanriku Town, 29 May 2011



Sign indicating a direction to a temporary vendor shop selling fuel and reconstruction materials, Minami-sanriku, May, 2011

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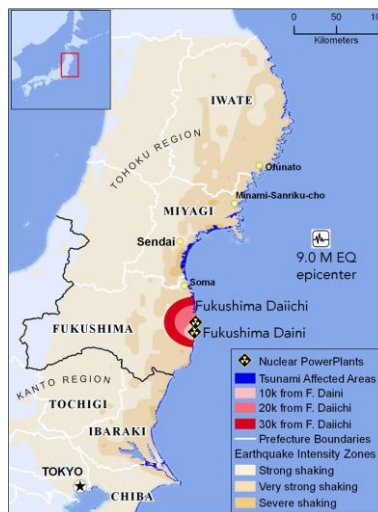
Great East Japan Earthquake 11 March 2011

Damages

- ✓ 841,000 jobs affected (in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures)
- ✓ Job losses in a wide range of sectors
 - Agriculture and fishery (Iwate)
 - Retail and services (Miyagi)
 - Manufacturing (Fukushima)

Response (Government)

- ✓ "Japan as One" Work Project (April 2011 -)
 - Public work creation
 - Job counselling
 - Subsidies for companies
 - Extended employment insurance benefits
 - Financial support for SMEs



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Lessons from Japan



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- Asia and Pacific Regional Meeting “Special Session on Natural Disaster Response with a Central Focus on Employment Policy”

- ✓ Lessons on employment and labour policies, based on the GEJE experience
- ✓ <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/2r9852000001yhlw.html>


- The 10th ASEAN & Japan High Level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies: “Caring Societies for the Socially Vulnerable People Suffering After Natural Disasters”

- ✓ Lessons from Japan and the Asia and Pacific region
- ✓ http://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/kokusaigyomu/asean/2012/dl/Report_of_Group_Discussions.pdf

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Lessons from Japan




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- ILO Japan Earthquake Project: Collecting and Disseminating Lessons on Employment and Labour Policies

Post-disaster Employment and Labour Policy Measures in Japan

- *Conducting research on employment-focused disaster recovery efforts both by the public and private sectors in Japan*
- *Generating lessons learned and good practices*
- *Disseminating and sharing findings as international knowledge resources*


➔ **Relevance, Preparedness, Inclusiveness**



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Relevance




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- ❑ Ensure employment issues are addressed during the time of natural disasters.
 - ✓ Incorporate the labour sector in the national disaster management systems to focus on preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction phases following natural or man-made disasters.
 - ✓ Allocate budget for employment and livelihoods programmes.
 - ✓ Build capacities to assess employment and livelihoods damages and losses (National assessment, Post-disaster Needs Assessment, Joint UN Assessment).



日本はひとつ
 じごとプロジェクト

"Japan as One" Work Project
 Japanese Ministry of Health,
 Labor and Welfare



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Preparedness



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- ❑ Prepare employment measures in advance.
 - ✓ Collect and stock know-hows on employment policies (e.g. employment services, job creation, vocational training).
 - ✓ Develop emergency employment policies in advance.
 - ✓ **Develop/strengthen social protection mechanisms** (e.g. unemployment insurance, health insurance) as they provide a safe guard in time of natural hazards

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Inclusiveness



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- ❑ Make a recovery **process inclusive to attend needs of women, the elders, the disabled and the informal sector workers**
 - ✓ The vulnerable social group with greater needs
 - Disaster-related death – 90% are those of 70 y.o above
 - “Mismatch” in the labour market – disadvantaged women
 - Livelihoods and employment a major challenge
 - More severe damages in the informal sector
 - ✓ Hard to find and reach the group
 - Few data on the vulnerable populations (e.g. the disabled, elders, migrant workers, as well as those in the informal sector) available
 - **Silent populations:** “Our need is not a priority”, Survivors’ guilt
Shinsai Shogaisha (“Disaster PwD”), Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, 1995 – The issue surfaced 16 years later.
 - Few agencies dedicated to the elders
 - Very few assistance efforts on their employment and livelihoods

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Thank you

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