

Post-Disaster Recovery Efforts by Workers' and Employers' Organisations in Japan

Overview of the findings from
literature review on their activities
in the early stage of recovery from
the Great East Japan Earthquake

Background & Purpose

- ILO Japan Earthquake Project
- Literature review on post- disaster recovery efforts by workers' and employers' organisations, and gather and analyze information (April – June 2014)
- Available information is centered around disaster relief activities conducted during the first year (2011).

Methodology

- Desk research to gather and analyze relevant information available as of June 2014 in printing and on the Internet
- Main sources of information:
 - Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training (JILPT)
 - RENGO (Japanese Trade Union Confederation)
 - ZENROREN (National Confederation of National Unions)
 - KEIDANREN (Japan Business Federation)

Findings

- Main activities included:
 - Volunteer activities during the first 6 months;
 - The provision of cash donations and relief supplies;
 - Labor-related counseling and assistance in negotiations between workers and employers; and
 - Policy-related activities to keep a focus on livelihood and employment (e.g. issuing statements and requests to the government).

Findings (cont'd)

- Systematic assistance mechanism for the relief activities in place.
 - Centralized headquarters were established to oversee the overall relief activities (based on lessons from the 1995 Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake).
 - Assistance were tailored based on feedback from local branches and responded to varying and evolving needs in disaster-afflicted areas.
 - Activities were carried out in collaboration with NGOs and NPOs.
 - Training courses were provided for volunteer workers.