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Urgent Appeal concerning Response to the Tohoku–Pacific Ocean Earthquake

Masamitsu Sakurai
Chairman, Keizai Doyukai

1. We express our deepest condolences for those who lost their lives in the Tohoku–Pacific Ocean Earthquake and extend our sincerest sympathies to all who have suffered in this disaster.
2. The damages brought about by this earthquake have created a state of emergency in Japan. Based on this understanding, the government, businesses, the public, and various other organizations must make a firm commitment to overcoming the present crisis by each performing its duties and responsibilities.
3. From this perspective, we request that the government adopt the following initiatives.
 - (1) A nonpartisan cooperative framework must be established, and the government must concentrate all its efforts on the saving of lives, the earliest possible restoration of the infrastructure, and providing reconstruction assistance to the individuals and regions affected by the disaster. In this process, the central and prefectural governments must cooperate in restoring the functions of municipalities in the affected areas.
 - (2) The Diet should quickly complete its deliberations on the fiscal 2011 budget bill and related legislation to ensure enactment before the end of the current fiscal year. Action should also be taken to prepare a supplementary budget bill for fiscal 2011 for financing recovery assistance. In particular, to facilitate the implementation of the recovery budget, an Act on Special Provisions concerning Issuance of Government Bonds related to fiscal 2011 should be enacted without delay.
 - (3) To avoid an undue sense of insecurity among the people, the Headquarters for Emergency Disaster Response must perform its role as command post to the fullest. It must endeavor to achieve the greatest results by centralizing

the process for the formulation and management of policies based on accurate and current information, and by efficiently allocating and utilizing human resources in relief and reconstruction activities. Moreover, the prime minister must explain the current situation and future outlook in his own words.

- (4) In coping with the power shortage that is expected to continue until the end of April when stable supplies can be restored, rolling blackouts, which may create serious confusion in the lives of the people and in economic activities, should not be used. Instead, gross restrictions should be placed on power consumption. (From the perspective of maintaining continuity in industrial activities, cutbacks in contracted amounts of power delivery and other forms of gross restriction are more effective than blackouts that last several hours.)
4. We request all businesses to fully cooperate in recovery and reconstruction assistance by making the greatest possible use of their human and material resources to do the following.
 - (1) All businesses should utilize their resources to engage positively in assisting the individuals and regions affected by the disaster.
 - (2) To cope with the power shortage in the greater Tokyo area, businesses must take active measures to conserve energy and to reduce electric power consumption in their business activities.
 - (3) To cope with possible shortages in goods, businesses must maintain stable supplies of goods and services and must endeavor to avoid price increases.
 - (4) Businesses must make the greatest possible effort to maintain employment, even as business operations are suspended in areas affected by the disaster and elsewhere.
 5. Keizai Doyukai will create a project team to address the above issues. The project team is scheduled to formulate “Common Guidelines” concerning the recovery and reconstruction assistance activities of members’ companies, and to promote such activities by engaging in follow-up actions.