

Safety and Health in Japan

A Newsletter from Japan Industrial Safety and Health Association (JISHA)

In This Issue

Viewpoint..... 2-3

Risk Assessment of Chemicals in the Workplace 2-3

Activities of Industrial Safety and Health Organizations 4-6

FY2005 Mental Health Promotion Symposium4

A New Exhibit and Movie at OSH-SQUARE4

The 23rd Kubota Award Winner5

Opening of the Safety, Health and Comfort Fair 20065

National Safety Week 2006.....6

JICOSH Training in FY20056

Labour Administrative Activities..... 7-9

Compiling a Report on a New Working Hours System7

Agreeing to a Chest X-ray at the Time of Hiring7

Equal Employment Opportunities Law and Labour Standards Law
to Be Partly Revised

Prohibition of Discrimination Against Women

Workers to Be Intensified7

Proposal for the Aeronautical Information Transmission System
Improvements

Compiled Report on Closed Runway Landing8

MLIT and MHLW Cooperate to Ensure Safety in Taxi Businesses8

The MHLW Begins a Study of a New Medical Check and Health

Guidance Program9

Research and Statistics 10-13

Fatal and Serious Industrial Accidents in 200510

Overtime Hours Worked Increase for the Fourth Consecutive Year.....11

Overview of Final Results of Monthly Labour Survey for 2005

Approximately 90% of Listed Companies Participate in the Corpo-
rate Social Responsibility (CSR) Movement11

One Out of Every Three Regular Employees

Takes Their Office Work Home12

2005 White Paper on Working Women, entitled "Actual Situation
of Women at Work"12

JISHA Research Report Compiled to Promote a Safety Culture13

Other Topics 14-15

An Express Train Derails and Overturms on Uetsu Line, Kills

Five and Injures 32 to Varying Degrees14

Japan's First Graduate School for Safety Specialists Established15

Risk Assessment of Chemicals in the Workplace



Haruhiko SAKURAI, Director,
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The Industrial Safety and Health Law, the core of occupational safety and health administration in Japan, was partly amended, and came into effect in April of this year. The main amendments concern measures to be taken by employers to reduce exposure to chemical hazards and the reinforcement of provisions that help prevent overwork and mental health impairment. This amended law stresses the need to deal with these issues, which has long been an important task for occupational safety and health administration and a main objective of JISHA activities.

For more than 40 years, the Occupational Health Research and Development Center (OHRDC) has been performing a technical service to prevent health impairment, chemically caused impairment in particular, among workers. Occupational safety and health legislation, however, specifies the use of only about 100 chemicals. Progress has been made to restrict the exposure of workers to these chemicals, which are now kept under rigid control with the exception of a few. Exposure to asbestos is one such exception, which is causing a serious problem. The best endeavor, including compensation programs, must be made to recover the health of people who have been exposed to this chemical and also to stop asbestos exposures in the future.

Other than the above law-controlled chemicals, tens of thousands of chemicals are being used in the workplace. How to tackle their risk and harmful effect remains a big problem. As a basic rule of risk management, employers should voluntarily carry out a risk assessment and implement appropriate risk reduction measures. The amended Industrial Safety and Health Law emphasizes these employers' obligations, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) issued guidelines on these obligations.

We at OHRDC are making preparations to upgrade our risk assessment service for workplaces that use chemicals and mixtures by capitalizing on the use of technologies and experience accumulated over more than 40 years.

In order to properly manage the risk of chemicals in the work environment, it is nec-

essary to determine the exposure limits of chemicals in the final stage of the hazard assessment with the highest possible accuracy. It is desirable to lower the risk of chemical exposure to the level required for the general environment. However, this is practically not always possible. For example, the rates of excessive carcinogenic risk due to exposure to carcinogens, which means cancer occurrence rates, must be lowered to between 1/100,000th and 1/1,000,000th or less for the general public. For workers, however, the risk is only lowered to 1/1,000th or less in many cases. If workers receive a sufficient disclosure of information, this can be regarded as acceptable. But in such a case, ethics require a reduction of the risk beyond that level as much as is practically possible.

The circumstances are the same for other toxic substances. For example, when researchers estimate the acceptable intake of a given substance for humans from the toxicity data obtained from an animal experiment, they usually multiply the non-toxic amount found in an animal experiment by an uncertainty factor of 1/100th or so and adopt a numerical value on the safety side. For workers, however, although achieving the same degree of safety as required for the general public is desired, the value obtained by multiplying the non-toxic amount for the general public by an uncertainty factor of about 1/10th is often used as the occupational exposure limit.

It is important both labour and management understand that workers are given a smaller safety area than the general public. In establishing an occupational exposure limit from the viewpoint of occupational health, only a minimal safety margin exists which is quite worrying.

I personally believe it is important that workers are always kept informed of both the exposure limit for the general public and that for workers, where the safety margin is slightly smaller. Employers should endeavor as much as possible to eliminate risks by adopting such measures as improving the work environment. The health of workers should constantly be checked if they are more at risk than the general public.

Activities of Industrial Safety and Health Organizations

FY2005 Mental Health Promotion Symposium

On January 19, 2006, a “Mental Health Promotion Symposium: Maintaining good mental functions by improving the work environment,” was held at Kudan Kaikan Hall, Tokyo, and was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), and JISHA. Approximately 800 people participated. Yoshikatsu KIMURA, then Managing Director of JISHA, and Juichi ABE, Director of the Industrial Health Division, Industrial Safety and Health Department, Labour Standards Bureau, MHLW, gave opening speeches.

In the first part of the symposium, presentations were made on the promotion of mental health by improving

the work environment, etc. To begin, Teruichi SHIMOMITSU, Vice President of Tokyo Medical University, explained the present conditions and said that according to the guidelines for promoting the mental health of workers at the workplace, the improvement of the work environment was considered an important objective but sufficient propagation and promotion efforts were not being made.

In addition, those who achieved or contributed to notable results by improving work environments, made announcements expressing their opinions from the perspectives of personnel and labour management, mental health services in industrial establishments, and the support of organizations outside industrial establishments. This was followed by a lively Q&A session.

In the latter half of the symposium, Atsushi KURASHIMA, an essayist, delivered a lecture entitled “The bad days will end; the death of a loved one, depression and recovery.”



Mr. Kurashima giving a lecture

A New Exhibit and Movie at OSH-SQUARE

On March 10, 2006, an exhibit on asbestos opened in *OSH-SQUARE's Industrial Safety Museum, which is the only facility in Japan where exhibits relating to occupational health and safety are shown. Diverse kinds of minerals and products containing asbestos (such as building materials) are on display. The



Asbestos-related exhibit



Virtual Reality Theater poster

effect of asbestos on human health and ways to prevent exposure to asbestos are explained in an easy-to-understand way.

Since April, 2006, a manufacturing version of the “sai-BALL Virtual Safety Class” series, which are virtual reality movies, has been shown at the virtual reality theater at OSH-SQUARE. Guided by the sai-BALL, which is a safety patrol robot on the screen, participants point out danger spots in the form of a quiz and answer the questions by pushing the button on the control panel, and can feel a shak-

ing floor and annoying buzzer if they fail to notice a danger.

* **OSH-SQUARE**: a facility that integrates the Industrial Safety Museum, and the 3D theater and virtual reality theater of the Japan Advanced Information Center of Safety and Health (JAISH)

The 23rd Kubota Award Winner

The Kubota Award was inaugurated in 1984 in memory of the late Dr. Juko KUBOTA, the first director of the Occupational Health Research and Development Center. He made enormous contributions to the improvement of occupational health standards in Japan. It began with the support of Dr. Kubota's family, and its purpose is to honor organizations and individuals who have rendered conspicuous services for the promotion of occupational health.

Shunichiro IMAMIYA was chosen as the recipient of the 23rd Kubota Award. A commendation ceremony was held on April 10, 2006. Mr. Imamiya trained industrial health specialists for many years. In addition, he performed an important role in the practice of a wide range of industrial health activities, including the guidance of people who handle agricultural chemicals. He was awarded for his immense contributions to the development of industrial health standards in Japan.

Opening of the Safety, Health and Comfort Fair 2006

The Safety, Health and Comfort Fair 2006 was held at Tokyo International Exhibition Center (Tokyo Big Sight) for three days from May 17 to 19, 2006. It is the only annual comprehensive event for safety and health strategies developed and implemented in Japan. This event included exhibitions, special lectures and special seminars on the themes of safety, health and comfort.

The sponsor and exhibitors displayed their latest technologies and information during diverse presentations and events in which the audience could participate.

In special lectures and seminars, noted specialists and company officers in charge of industrial safety and health, gave talks and held discussions on safety and health measures, contemporary issues and new topics. The topics for these lectures and seminars were as follows:

<Special lectures>

- At the scene of an industrial accident: never allow the same disaster to happen twice
- Why do serious accidents occur?

<Special seminars>

- Ways of implementing measures to promote mental health
- How to implement occupational health measures in compliance with the amended Industrial Safety and Health Law



The Safety, Health and Comfort Fair 2006

National Safety Week 2006



National Safety Week 2006 poster

The 79th National Safety Week was held by the MHLW and JISHA with the support of five sector-specific industrial safety and health associations. Following the preparatory period (June 1 to 30), the National Safety Week is being held at workplaces across the nation from July 1 to 7, 2006.

This year's slogan was "Risk reduction initiatives to create a safety culture involving everyone in the workplace." It emphasizes the need for labour and management to make concerted efforts in risk assessments and to reduce risks based on these assessments so that they

can remove hidden causes of work-related accidents at an early stage. It is important to establish a "safety culture" – a corporate culture that gives top priority to the health and safety of workers.

JICOSH Training in FY2005

The Japan International Center for Occupational Safety and Health (JICOSH) provides technical training for corporate safety and health management personnel, and officials of safety and health-related organizations in developing countries where Japanese companies operate. In FY2005, the following 12 training courses were offered. 165 people from 16 countries and regions took part.

- Safety Management in Construction Work
- Zero Accident Activities (KYT)
- Safety Management and Inspection for Machinery
- Zero Accident Activities (KYT) [in Spanish]
- Ergonomics
- Safety and Health Education Trainers' Training
- Boiler Safety
- Management for Hazardous Materials
- Zero Accident Activities (KYT) [in Mongolian]
- Management for Hazardous Materials [in Chinese]
- Safety Assessment of Construction Work Plan for Project Manager
- Zero Accident Activities (KYT) [in Indonesian and Malay]



JICOSH technical training session participants

Labour Administrative Activities

Compiling a Report on a New Working Hours System

The Study Group for Future Working Hours of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) recently drew up a report on what the new working hours system should be and how it should operate, assuming that the existing system and its management method need reexamining. This is due to diversifying types of work as a result of structural changes in industries, and increased working hours.

The report, finalized at the group's last meeting to discuss the subject, stressed the need of "harmony between work and private life" and lists problems related to encouraging workers to take annual paid holidays, and cutback on overtime and holiday work. It also summarizes problems related to the flextime system and the deemed working-hour system for workers outside the workplace. The report says the paid holiday system, under which workers can decide for themselves when to take paid holidays, has been partially paralyzed. It also states that labour authorities need to discuss various approaches to develop a legal framework within which employers are obligated to make sure that workers take paid holidays while also respecting the workers right to decide.

Agreeing to a Chest X-ray at the Time of Hiring

A study group of the MHLW is now reviewing ways of implementing a chest X-ray examination scheme under the Industrial Safety and Health Law. The study group is responding to the requirements of the revised Tuberculosis Prevention Law, enacted in April 2005. Under the pre-existing law, all workers were obliged to undergo a chest X-ray. Under the revised law, however, only certain workers are obliged to.

By December 2005, the study group had held five meetings, including a hearing of the people concerned. The group members agreed on the following four points:

A chest X-ray should continue as before to be conducted at the time of hiring;

It should continue as before to be conducted as part of a medical examination of employees to be stationed overseas;

It should be conducted every year as part of the tuberculosis checkup under the Pneumoconiosis Law;

The provision that requires a person found likely to develop tuberculosis in a regular medical examination, to receive a chest X-ray after six months, should be abolished.

Diverse opinions have been expressed from various viewpoints regarding how to conduct X-rays as part of regular medical examinations. This topic continues to be studied.

Equal Employment Opportunities Law and Labour Standards Law to Be Partly Revised

Prohibition of Discrimination Against Women Workers to Be Intensified

On February 7, 2006, the Labour Policy Council submitted a report to the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, which stated that the outline of the bill to partly revise the Law on Securing Etc. of Equal Opportunity and Treatment between Men and Women in Employment, and the Labour Standards Law was legitimate and reasonable.

The outline of the bill is based on a proposal made by the council's Equal Employment Opportunities Subcommittee last year on measures to guarantee equal employment opportunities for men and women. It includes a new provision, which prohibits the dismissal of a woman who requests maternity leave before childbirth in compliance with the Labour Standards Law. It also includes another provision, which prohibits job transfers during pregnancy and after childbirth.

The outline of the bill expands the coverage of workers, against whom discrimination is prohibited, from women to workers in general, and prohibits indirect discrimination that appears unrelated to gender but is disadvantageous to either men or women. Indirect

discrimination includes unfair requirements based on stature, weight, and physical strength when hiring and recruiting, and on work experience when applying for a promotion. The rejection of job and promotion applications must be based on reasonable grounds.

The outline of the bill only mentions limited and abstract cases of indirect discrimination. Council members representing employees said that concrete examples should be given, while members representing employers were reluctant to even introduce the idea of indirect discrimination.

The Labour Standards Law will be amended to ease restrictions on women working in pits. The ban will be mostly limited to “manual work.” Therefore, with the exception of pregnant women, it will be legally possible for women engineers to work in pits as supervisors.

Proposal for the Aeronautical Information Transmission System Improvements

Compiled Report on Closed Runway Landing

On April 29, 2005, an Airbus A300 from Obihiro Airport landed on a closed runway at Tokyo International Airport (Haneda airport) due to misguided instructions by an air traffic controller. The Aircraft

and Railway Accidents Investigation Commission recently compiled a report on their intensive investigation into this serious incident.

The air traffic controller, who informed his controlling team of the arrival and departure schedule at the airport on that day, incorrectly understood there was no runway closure during his hour of duty. It was thus inferred the controlling team did not obtain information about the closure of the runway and assumed it to be open. On the basis of the investigation, the commission made proposals to improve the information processing system for communicating air traffic information, including restrictions on the use of runways.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) carried out an investigation into the air traffic control system immediately after the incident and is working on measures to prevent a recurrence. As recommended in the report, a double-check system is now in operation to monitor the communication of air traffic information. This also serves to improve levels of communication during emergencies and to reinforce coordination systems for airport management.

Since December 2005, information on runway restrictions has been displayed on personal computers in control towers. In addition to this, a system for automatically displaying information needed by controllers on display units in control towers and radar rooms, under development in FY2006, will be

in operation at Haneda, Narita, Chubu and Naha airports in FY2007.

The MLIT has confirmed that, when workers are engaged in shift work, information regarding work irregularities must be shared among both teams.

MLIT and MHLW Cooperate to Ensure Safety in Taxi Businesses

The Liaison and Coordination Council, established by the MLIT and MHLW, issued a report last October based on its assessment of employers in taxi businesses. The report contains measures to ensure proper working conditions for taxi drivers. Based on the report, the two ministries have been implementing the following measures since April 1, 2006:

(1) Joint audit and inspection of employers

The two ministries will conduct joint audits and inspections of taxi company operators whenever necessary. In the past, audits and inspections of taxi company operators were the responsibility of the District Transport Bureaus and labor standards inspection organizations.

(2) Expansion of a mutual communication system to improve taxi drivers' working conditions

The mutual communication system has allowed for the reporting of serious violations of the Labour Standards Law or guidelines for the improvement of working conditions

suspected through audits, etc., to the Prefectural Labour Office. Now, the mutual communication system has been expanded to also cover a suspected violation of the Minimum Wage Law.

(3) Reporting non-participation in the social insurance scheme

In order to ensure proper working conditions for taxi drivers and promote fair competition between taxi companies, a system of informing the Regional Social Insurance Bureaus or the Prefectural Labour Office about non-participation in the social insurance and workers' accident compensation insurance scheme has been established.

(4) Improved guidance to newcomers to taxi businesses

The two ministries have improved the standard of guidance given to newcomers to taxi businesses on complying with labour-related laws and regulations, seeking better working conditions for taxi drivers.

MHLW has established a subcommittee responsible for medical checkups and another for health guidance. It will examine the standard program, the method of data management and outsourcing rules.

Based on results of the study so far, the ministry has proposed plans to offer more support and health guidance depending on the level of illness. Also, in response to a new IT reform strategy established by the government's IT Strategic Headquarters, the construction of a database for individuals to use throughout their lifetime for medical checkups and the standardization of medical checkup procedures, is also under consideration.

With the government's consent to reform the medical system, the MHLW hopes to implement the new medical check and health guidance program in FY2008. It will coordinate a provisional program during FY2006, and then start preparations in various prefectures.

The MHLW Begins a Study of a New Medical Check and Health Guidance Program

The MHLW, which is coordinating a new medical check and health guidance program for metabolic syndrome (visceral adiposity syndrome), has begun examining case studies at its standard medical check and health guidance study group. The

Research and Statistics

Fatal and Serious Industrial Accidents in 2005

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) recently announced a list of fatal industrial accidents that occurred in 2005. The number of people killed was 1,514, a decrease of 106 from the preceding year and the smallest number of fatal industrial accidents deaths in Japanese history.

The construction industry experienced more death related accidents than any other industry, with 497 deaths. But this was a decrease of 97 from the preceding year. The manufacturing industry ranked second at 256 deaths, down by 37 deaths, and the overland cargo transportation industry ranked third at 245 deaths, an increase of two, from the preceding year.

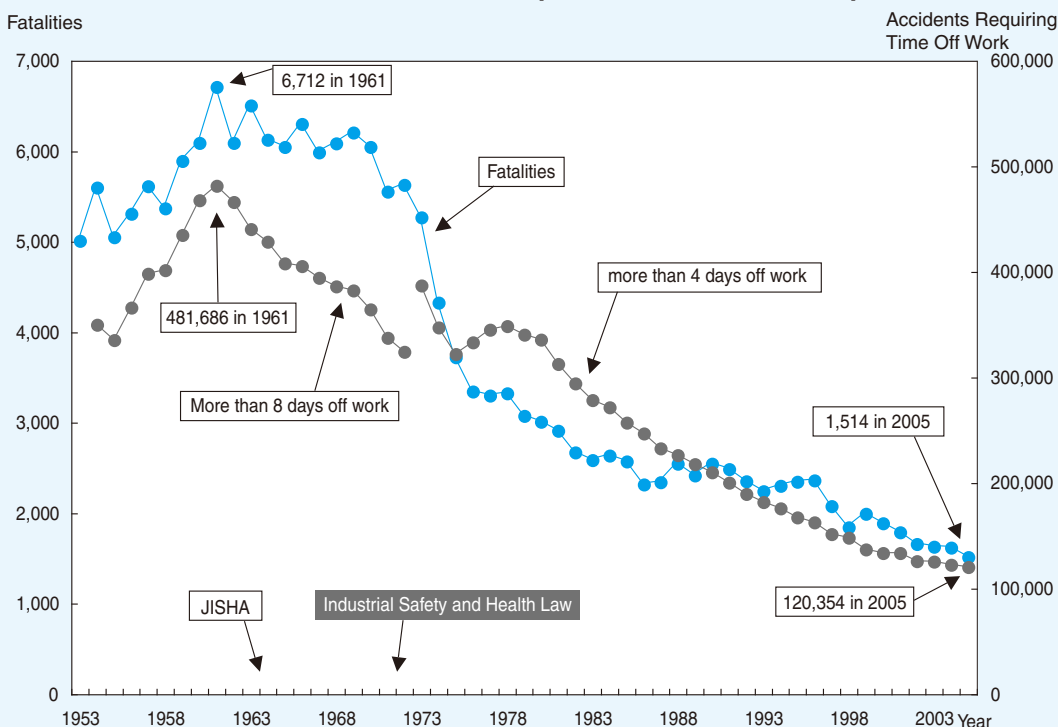
There were 265 serious industrial accidents in 2005. (Serious industrial accidents are industrial accidents in

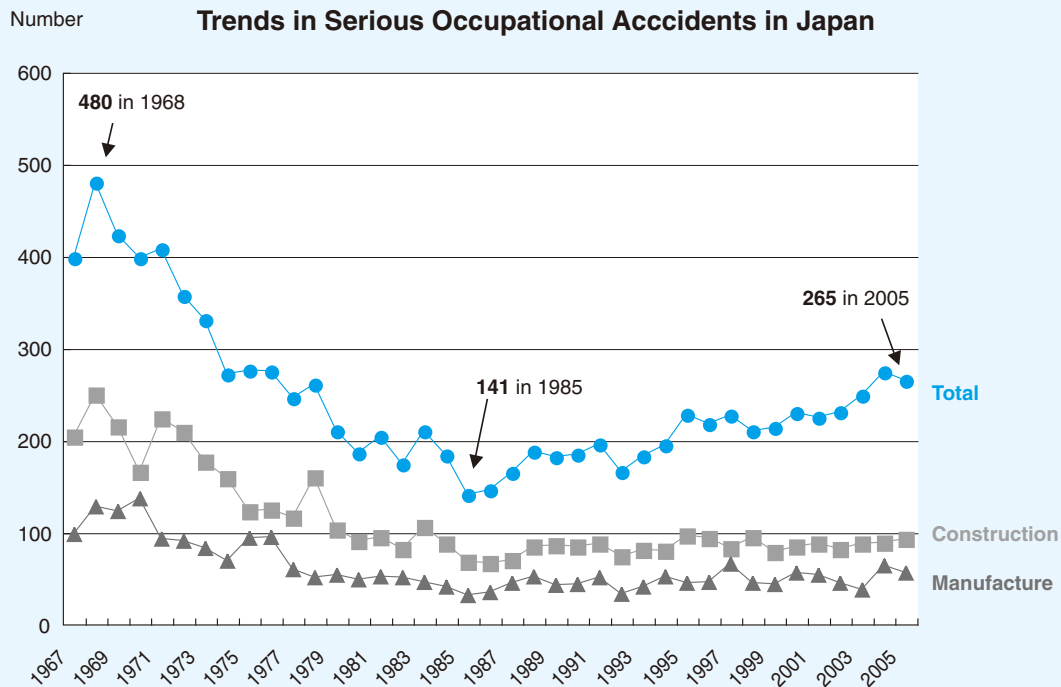
which three or more workers are killed or injured, or fall ill at the same time.) This is a decrease of nine cases from the preceding year, but equals the high level experienced in the second half of the 1970s when the number of grave industrial accidents was around 270.

Regarding different types of serious industrial accidents in 2005, the number of traffic accidents amounted to 137, which is half the total number of accidents. There were 74 cases of poisoning and chemical injuries, 15 explosions, 9 cases of fires and burns from hot objects, 4 cases each of collapsing and falling, and 26 other cases.

The number of serious industrial accidents in 2005, which declined from their peak of 480 in 1968, increased after bottoming out at 141 in 1985. Since 1985, there have been years when the number decreased, but the number would increase the following year. Continued measures to prevent serious industrial accidents have to be taken.

Trends in the Number of Occupational Accidents in Japan





scheduled salaries increased by 1.6% to ¥19,305. Real wages increased by 1.0% from the preceding year.

The number of regular employees (full-time and part-time workers) increased by 0.5% from the preceding year, an increase for two consecutive years. The number of full-time workers increased by 0.5%, the first increase in eight years, and the number of part-time workers increased by 0.6%.

Overtime Hours Worked Increase for the Fourth Consecutive Year

Overview of Final Results of Monthly Labour Survey for 2005

According to the Overview of the Final Results of the Monthly Labour Survey for 2005 released by the MHLW, non-scheduled working hours in 2005 were 10.4, an increase of 1.1% from the preceding year.

The average number of total actual working hours per month at companies

with five or more employees decreased by 0.6% from the previous year to 150.2 hours, the first decrease in two years. Out of the number of total actual working hours, the number of scheduled working hours decreased by 0.7% to 139.8 hours, but non-scheduled working hours increased by 1.1% to 10.4 hours.

The average monthly salary in 2005 increased by 0.6% from the preceding year to ¥334,910, the first increase in five years. This amount refers to base salaries which increased by 0.3% to ¥272,802 and special cash earnings which increased by 2.1% to ¥62,108. Of these base salaries, scheduled salaries increased by 0.2% to ¥253,497, and non-

Approximately 90% of Listed Companies Participate in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Movement

A recent survey by the Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training (JILPT) shows that 92.7% of listed companies are undertaking Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and that 86.3% of them mentioned the prevention of corporate scandals as the reason for this action.

The survey has also revealed that 29.8% of listed companies said they are actively engaging in CSR to an extent that exceeds requirements by legislation and the public while 62.9% said they are engaging in CSR only to the extent required by legislation. According to 55.9% of listed companies, the second most common reason for compliance, after the prevention of corporate scandals, is “social justice and fairness,” 40.0% claim it is to “improve customers’ image of corporations,” 28.3% cite “the top priority of safety and health in management” as their reason, and 18.5% assert “CSR is planned and executed as the core of corporate strategy.” (The survey was conducted by answering a questionnaire with prepared answers, with up to three multiple answers per question allowed.)

The breakdown of the questionnaire results are as follows: the most implemented policy of CSR was “compliance with legislation and ethics” at 99.3%, followed by “a sincere attitude toward customers” at 87.3%, “positive disclosure” at 81.3%, “consideration for the environment” at 80.1%, “the effectiveness of audits and supervision” at 73.9%, “the respect of fair competition” at 71.5%, “equal opportunity between men and women” at 59.2%, “participation in activities to contribute to society” at 58.3%, and “consideration for childcare and nursing by employees” at 51.3%.

One Out of Every Three Regular Employees Takes Their Office Work Home

A recent survey by the JILPT shows that one out of every three regular employees takes their office work home. This ratio is common to both genders. Regarding the frequency of bringing office work home, “seldom” represents 51.0%, “sometimes” 32.4%, and “often” 15.9%. Regarding the days or hours when work is done at home, “holidays” represents 78.1%, “after coming home on workdays” accounts for 66.4%, and “before leaving home for work” 12.6%. Regarding the payment of office work done at home, “unpaid overtime” stands at 87.2%.

The title of this survey was “A comprehensive survey of the Japanese way of doing work.” Regular employees were questioned on the working hour system and moonlighting.

Non-regular employees were questioned on working conditions and wages. In the past five years, 58.1% of part-timers and contract employees worked without intermission. Employees sent from business contracting companies represent 47.5%, regularly employed temporary workers 46.3%, and registered temporary workers 43.1%. The following is a breakdown of those who involuntarily experienced a period without work: 10.0% of part-timers, 18.1% of contract employees, 22.5% of

registered temporary workers, 25.4% of employees sent from represented business contracting companies and 30.0% of regularly employed temporary workers.

Regarding incomes for household finance, employee incomes from business contracting companies ranked highest at 64.4%, followed by contract employees at 57.2%, regularly employed temporary workers at 52.5%, registered temporary workers at 43.9%, and part-timers at 39.1%.

2005 White Paper on Working Women, entitled “Actual Situation of Women at Work”

The MHLW recently released the 2005 White Paper on Working Women, entitled “Actual Situation of Women at Work.” This report analyzes the working conditions and mental attitude of working women aged 45 and over (including the baby-boom generation). It also analyzes the regular survey carried out on the working conditions of all working women.

The white paper reports the high desire for employment among middle aged and older women, and mentions their job-hunting is done in a positive manner. Due to the decline in the population of Japan, the paper encourages hiring such women to help strengthen the economy. It also states the importance of maintaining the present female

workforce in manufacturing industries that depend on middle aged and older women, such as food processing, textiles, apparel, and medical industries, and welfare services such as nursing care. In addition, it urges the passing on of technological and vocational skills to younger generations.

The female labour force in 2005 was 27.5 million, up 0.5% from the preceding year, and increased for two consecutive years. The women's labour force participation rate was 48.4%, an increase of 0.1 %, indicating that 48.4% of women aged 16 and over were working or looking for work in 2005. An M-shaped curve represents the women's labour force participation rate with respect to age, with a peak in the 20s and 40s, and a decline in the 30s. A rise in the labour force participation rate was noted in the 30 - 34 age group (as represented by the center bottom part of the letter "M"). It increased by 1.3% from 61.4% in the preceding year to 62.7%. The rate of increase was highest in this age group.

JISHA Research Report Compiled to Promote a Safety Culture

JISHA recently compiled a research report on measures to promote the growth of a safety culture. It is the result of investigations into what companies should do to strengthen the growth of and stabilize

a safety culture in order to counter the upward trend in the number of serious industrial accidents. To compile the report, JISHA addressed questionnaires to top executives, staff members in charge of safety and health, and foremen regarding their awareness and efforts to improve occupational safety and health, and then compiled and analyzed the answers.

According to the report, at business establishments where the health and safety level is high, top executives showed an eagerness to communicate their policy on industrial health and safety by themselves. There was positive two-way communication between the safety and health staff, and workers. Similarly, safety and health measures were taken involving every member concerned, including those from outside organizations. These effective practices helped ensure high health and safety standards.

The report has also revealed what top executives and the safety and health staff generally expect from each other, what both are actually doing and also the differences between them: top executives place great expectations on the activities of staff in charge of safety and health, but have little enthusiasm to develop the skill of these safety and health staff members.

In addition to this report, JISHA has compiled three other reports: a research report on the method of disaster analysis based on managerial factors, a research report on the reality of outsourcing safety and health-related jobs

at manufacturing industries, and an interim research report on the positioning of safety and health in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.

An Express Train Derails and Overturns on Uetsu Line, Kills Five and Injures 32 to Varying Degrees

On December 25, 2005, limited express train Inaho No. 14 from Akita to Niigata derailed between Sagoshi Station and Kita Amarume Station on East Japan Railway's Uetsu Line, Yamagata Prefecture, and three of the six carriages overturned. In this accident, five passengers died and 32 others including the train driver and salespeople on board the train were injured to varying degrees. The Aircraft and Railway Accidents Investigation Commission is investigating the cause of the fatal accident. It is believed a strong gust of wind hit the train, which then lost balance when it had just passed a bridge over Mogamigawa River.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) immediately established an accident investigation board, issued a warning to East Japan Railway and instructed all railway companies to implement effective safety measures. Taking the effect of strong winds into serious consideration, the ministry instructed all railway companies to install anemometers and conduct an immediate overhaul on existing ones. In addition, it established a council of experts to study meteorological observation for railway operation, rules for operation in stormy weather and measures to counter storms.

Japan's First Graduate School for Safety Specialists Established

Nagaoka University of Technology established a graduate school for safety specialists in FY2006. It is Japan's first graduate school to enhance the growth of specialists in system safety. Its purpose is to make its students acquire sophisticated knowledge and practical abilities concerning safety, including standards, technologies, authentication systems, management, and other relevant areas. The students will be fully-fledged members of society who have a high awareness of and experience in safety problems. In-class lessons are held mainly on Saturdays and Sundays. Since on-the-job training is scheduled to take place, improvements in workplace safety and health are also expected. The term of study will be two years as a rule, and those who complete it will be given the Master of System Safety degree.

Japan's graduate schools for professionals, which were opened in 2003, are aimed at fostering the growth of highly sophisticated work-related skills. There are graduate schools for professionals such as a law school and accountants' school, which are aimed at conferring eligibility for state examinations, courses aimed at educating and training people with high occupational ability in public health and medical administration, and courses that train MBAs and people accepted in the international world of business.

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JISHA was established in 1964 under the Industrial Accident Prevention Organization Law. Its purpose is to eliminate industrial accidents by improving Japan's industrial safety and health levels through voluntary accident prevention activities among businesses throughout Japan.

President: Mr. Yohtaro Sawada Executive Director: Mr. Hiroshi Yokota