

Employment Measures the Government should Take

1. Expansion of Employment Safety Nets

It is feared that the employment situation in Japan will get worse and more serious in the future. In addition to the support for the efforts made by the individual companies to maintain their employment, the government should ensure indispensable employment safety nets centering on the expansion of unemployment benefits and other benefits.

The government is called on to take the following measures:

- 1) More alleviation of the requirements for employment adjustment subsidy and more expansion of its rate, while promoting public awareness of the system and simplifying its application procedures;
- 2) An early implementation of more alleviation of the payment requirements for unemployment benefits and of more expansion of those who covered by the employment insurance system;
- 3) Expansion of the public vocational training programs to allow trainees to shift to stable jobs; in this context, it is requested to diversify the training subjects in line with the needs of the society and enterprises, and to improve higher level of trainings through longer- term training period; and
- 4) Arrangements to provide housing to the unemployed who were forced out of company dormitories immediately at low cost, not only through maximum securing of employment promotion houses but also through leasing private apartment houses and other houses by the central or local governments.

2. Job Creation

On the basis of intensively substantial expansion of government's expenditures for the fields linked to our future economic growth and productivity improvement, it is essential for the government to create new demands and new jobs positively. In particular, job creation in the fields of nursing care, child-care and agriculture is important for securing public safety and for maintaining vitality of regional and local economies.

The government is asked to take the following measures:

- 1) Improving and maintaining infrastructures linked to strengthening competition, including :
 - (a) Improvement and maintenance works for physical distribution and transportation networks;
 - Harbors: Strengthening wide-range cooperation among Keihin Port, Ise Bay,

Hanshin Port and other ports, and improvement and maintenance works for shipping containers for overseas trade;

- Airports: Drastic internationalization of Haneda Airport to aim at attracting tourists to Japan, an international tourist destination, more capacity expansion of the airports in the Greater Tokyo Metropolitan area including New Tokyo International Airport (Narita Airport), and as well improvement of the access to Narita Airport from the center of Tokyo;

- Roads: An early construction of three belt high ways in the Greater Tokyo Metropolitan area and urgent construction of national roads in the place where international sea containers are unable to reach;

(b) Making public facilities earthquake-proof and ecology-minded, repairs and maintenance works of obsolete roads and bridges, and measures against localized torrential downpour;

(c) Development of farmland bases through regenerating abandoned farmlands, promotion of the entry of corporate management system and new farmers into agriculture, and promotion of cooperation among agriculture, commerce and industry.

(d) Employment support for nurturing forests (mowing of weeds, trimming and others) through subsidizing for wages, alleviating premium rate of accident insurance and taking other measures.

2) Strengthening the foundation of research and development, and the infrastructure of information and communication, including;

(a) Promotion of the foundation of electronics administration all over the central and local governments,

(b) Expansion of hub universities for fostering high level of IT professionals,

(c) Promotion of the development of electric automobiles and the development of infrastructures for its purpose, and

(d) Substantial expansion of the government's research and development investments and accelerated promotion of "Innovative Technologies Strategy."

3) Upkeep and promotion of the bases for securing public safety

(a) Promotion of various types of houses or care facilities for elderly people.

(b) Expansion of childcare support services including the increase of childcare facilities.

(c) Reinstatement support for those persons with the nursing care and childcare qualifications as well as support for acquiring qualifications.

(d) Alleviation of the requirements for qualifications so as to expand childcare givers.