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[The third Proposal for Recovery and Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake]

Proposal for Establishing a Backup System for the Central Functions of the Capital and Enhancing Kansai's Disaster Response Ability

Kansai Economic Federation

The progress of recovery and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake has been delayed significantly. As previously proposed, it is necessary to make great progress in the reconstruction and recovery projects in the afflicted areas with powerful government support as soon as humanly possible. To that end, the early establishment and implementation of a third supplementary budget and building a systematic framework of special zone for reconstruction are strongly needed.

At the same time, based on the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, a review of the best way to maintain the central functions of the nation at the time of a large-scale disaster should be established as soon as possible, in addition to the promotion of measures for that purpose. For the time being, however, the establishment of a backup system for the functions of Tokyo metropolis as a political, administrative and economic center is an urgent task as part of the nation's crisis management in preparation for a possible large-scale disaster in the future. Since Kansai is an essential region in western Japan, it is considered to be a perfect area for this backup function.

Meanwhile, during a situation such as the Great East Japan Earthquake or in preparation for a large typhoon like the recent one that left behind a great amount of destruction in various regions including Kansai, it is also necessary to recheck and further strengthen Kansai's disaster response capability. The Union of Kansai Governments is currently establishing a wide-area disaster prevention plan. But in order to respond to a great disaster, including a possible earthquake that could inflict severe damage on the Tokai, Tonankai and Nankai regions, a joint effort by residents and companies is important in addition to the efforts made by the national and local governments.

As such, we make the following proposal regarding the establishment of a backup system for the central functions of Tokyo metropolis, as well as further strengthening Kansai's disaster response capability:

I. Establishing a backup system for the central functions of Tokyo metropolis and clarifying the role of Kansai

Kansai is located in a place distant enough from the Tokyo metropolitan area to be able to avoid simultaneous damage in a disaster, and has traffic, distribution and information communication infrastructures that connect various areas both overseas and within Japan, including the capital, as well as public facilities and functions, and conference halls and accommodations. Also, Kansai, as the location of the consulates of major countries, local administrative organs of government and municipal agencies, and headquarters of many companies, as well as the backup functions for the Bank of Japan and some companies, is generally a perfect area that plays a backup role for the central functions of Tokyo metropolis. Furthermore, the Union of Kansai Governments, which was established in December 2010, has shown its ability to achieve cooperation between local governments in successfully supporting disaster relief efforts. Based on Kansai's potential as stated above, the establishment of a backup system for the central functions of Tokyo metropolis, including political and administrative functions and financial and information communication systems, should be built as soon as possible.

For that purpose, in addition to the early establishment of a legal system regarding the maintenance of the central functions of Tokyo metropolis during a large-scale disaster, Kansai should be clearly designated as an area that can play a backup role for the central functions of the capital. After that, in order to set up a national-level business continuity plan through backup of the central functions of Tokyo metropolis, including the Diet, and the administration and judicial systems, we should have immediate discussions beyond the boundaries of government ministries. In particular, since the initial response to a large-scale disaster is extremely important, the details of the initial response to a large-scale disaster beyond expectations in the Tokyo metropolitan area should be clearly specified in the business continuity plan, and a backup of the crisis center in the Prime Minister's official residence should be established in Kansai.

Also, from the perspective of risk management for a large-scale disaster, it is considered that companies should shift away from centralization in Tokyo in terms of their headquarters functions.

II. Enhancing Kansai's response capability for a large-scale disaster

To enhance Kansai's disaster response capability, it is important to come up with comprehensive response measures and to strengthen cooperation between the national and local governments and the private sector, or between various entities and fields related to land, sea and air management, transport,

etc. Based on the experience of major disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake, and to complete a backup of the central functions of Tokyo metropolis in Kansai, it is necessary to take certain measures, such as those stated specifically below.

1. Immediate implementation of damage prediction

Regarding emergencies and the size and broad spectrum of possible disasters in Kansai, strengthening the response to possible earthquakes in the Tokai, Tonankai and Nankai areas and in the Uemachi fault zone is an urgent agenda item. Based on the unexpected size of the earthquake and tsunami that occurred in the Great East Japan Earthquake, we need to immediately re-predict the damage from those possible earthquakes. In addition, local governments should be required to review their disaster prevention plans based on that damage re-prediction.

2. Multiple-lane development of traffic & distribution infrastructures, wide-area networking and establishing a backup system

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, comb-shaped emergency traffic networks were opened to secure access to the afflicted areas, in addition to roads, ports and railroads along the Japan Sea and airports near the afflicted areas being used as alternative routes. Because of this, in order to strengthen Kansai's disaster response capability, it is indispensable for Kansai to realize a multiple-lane development of country trunk lines and traffic and distribution infrastructures, and wide-area networking ranging from the Pacific to the Japan Sea. Also, from the experience of the recent typhoon, to secure relief routes in a time of disaster, it is necessary to enhance disaster prevention by having multiple road systems in mountainous areas, etc.

Moreover, based on the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, it is necessary to establish during normal times an emergency backup system for energy and power supply, and a disaster prevention administrative radio network that is resilient in a disaster.

3. Establishing a cooperative and collaborative system between land, sea and air traffic modes

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, we have been aware of the importance of securing multiple wide-area alternative lanes for various transportation modes in an extensive disaster. For a large-scale disaster, it is extremely important to establish laws & regulations and systems for emergency response in order to maintain emergency & rescue, recovery & rebuilding and

economic activities by switching between land, sea and air transportation modes. In the future, Kansai will be required to formulate preliminary plans related to transportation during a disaster through cooperation between various relevant bodies, such as facility managers, private businesses such as transportation, and local governments.

4. Cooperation between the government and private sectors and strengthening the disaster response of companies

The Union of Kansai Governments is currently establishing a wide-area disaster prevention plan. But it is indispensable to clearly stipulate the response to a great disaster, including a possible earthquake that could inflict severe damage on the Tokai, Tonankai and Nankai regions, as well as the roles expected for companies in the disaster prevention plans of local governments. Also, companies themselves are required to strengthen their disaster response, such as formulating and reviewing their business continuity plans and establishing an inter-company cooperative system for alternative production, etc. during a disaster.

In Kansai's business circles, we would like to conduct activities that contribute to strengthening disaster responses in cooperation with the government and private sectors and individual companies. We hope to do this by requesting the cooperation of companies while at the same time reflecting on their views regarding the wide-area disaster prevention plan, through an exchange of opinions with the Union of Kansai Governments.