

Unofficial WRC Translation.

Original Chinese is available at:

http://www.gd.lss.gov.cn/gdlss/zcfg/zxzcfg/t20080514_62882.htm

Urgent Memo On Comforting and Stabilizing Workers from Sichuan Wenchuan Earthquake Affected Regions

To: All Prefecture Level Labor and Social Security Bureaus (Labor Bureaus)

On May 12, Wenchuan County, Sichuan Province was hit by a Richter Scale 7.8 earthquake. The scale of the earthquake was huge, a large area is affected, and the situation is serious. The Party Central and State Council are giving this high priority. Secretary Hu has chaired a standing Politburo meeting and Premier Wen is working on the front lines and commanding the relief. The [Guangdong] Provincial party committee and provincial government call on the whole province to assist the affected regions, to combat the [effects of the] earthquake, and to launch relief efforts. Pursuant to the requirements of the Party Central, State Council, provincial party committee and provincial government, in order to comfort and stabilize workers from the affected regions – and as a concrete action to support the affected regions in combating the [effects of the] earthquake and achieving social security – the following issues are urgent:

1. To support the suffering regions with absolutely responsible attitude and urgency.

Guangdong is a major destination for laborers from Sichuan and other affected provinces. A great number of these laborers are working in our province. To assist the emergency relief efforts in the affected regions through concrete actions, to do the best job of comforting and stabilizing workers from the affected regions, and to assist in solving their problems in the areas of labor and social security immediately could help to calm them during this emotional time and secure their jobs and livelihoods. All labor and social security authorities should give high priority, unified their thinking and actions under the leadership of the Party Central, State Council, provincial party committee and provincial government, to acting fast and doing their best to wholeheartedly assist workers from affected regions on matters of labor and social security.

2. To organize comforting efforts quickly.

All cities should act quickly to mobilize employment services centers on all levels and grassroots labor and social security officers to reach enterprises with large numbers of workers from the affected regions; to map the number and basic situation [of these workers]; to launch comforting activities in different ways; and to understand their difficulties, stabilize their emotions, and prepare appropriate responses according to the mapping. All cities please provide the provincial employment center with information on the number of workers from the affected regions (especially from Sichuan), their geographical distribution, and the response plan before the end of working hours on May 15.

3. To launch employment assistance quickly.

[Authorities] should adopt effective measures to ensure the employment security of workers from affected regions. For those who are employed, [authorities] should mobilize enterprises to ensure their employment security; enterprises can not terminate the labor contracts [of workers from affected regions] in a casual manner. For those who have to go back home, [authorities] should mobilize enterprises to provide paid leave with no loss of position. For those who are unemployed, all labor and social security authorities should serve them with priority and ensure they can be employed as soon as possible.

4. To concretely defend the legal rights of workers from the affected regions.

All labor and social security authorities should strengthen their labor inspection, complaint handling and labor dispute arbitration efforts. [Authorities should] handle dispute cases involving workers from the affected regions with priority, especially to ensure the full and timely payment of their wages as well as ensuring their other rights are defended effectively. [Authorities should] maintain the “12333 hotline” operating smoothly and respond promptly to complaints brought by workers from affected regions.

5. To strengthen cooperation between representative offices in affected regions and Guangdong.

[Authorities] should communicate with representative labor affairs offices in the affected regions, understand the disaster situation, strengthen the cooperation, collect and release information on the disaster to workers from affected regions immediately, and work together to strengthen efforts related to comforting workers from affected regions and all other efforts to defend their rights.

6. To strengthen information flow.

All labor and social security authorities should assign a particular organization to handle assistance to workers from affected regions. A point person should be assigned to collect information on the assistance and report to the provincial labor and social security department. All cities please provide the contact information for the point person and organization to the provincial employment center by May 14 at noon.

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