

Comment on the restated OECD Jobs Strategy

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1. Four pillars of the restated OECD Jobs strategy

The restated OECD Jobs strategy proposes four pillars to tackle new issues, such as the rapidly aging population, and to achieve high economic growth and job security through increase in employment opportunities as well as unemployment reduction.

I basically do not oppose these four pillars. However, I am unwilling to agree with the employment promotion strategies focusing on the reform of the labour market alone.

2. Main comments by the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC)

Unemployment is still a serious policy issue.

There is no single combination of a policy and a system to ensure excellent market performance.

Unemployment and the deteriorating quality of work have aroused concern.

Unemployment measures: Deregulation in the labour market cannot lead to a solution.

Appropriate minimum wages do not necessarily hinder employment.

Unemployment benefits are not the fundamental causes of unemployment.

Reducing employer's responsibility does not necessarily lead to increase in employment.

Active labour market policy should be maintained.

The development of technical skills is promoted jointly with social partners.

The quality of working life and work-life balance issues are needs to be considered.

3. Comments based on Japan's experience - Results from policies for the relaxation of the labour market

- (1) Duplicity of the labour market and the widening disparity
- (2) Skepticism whether the employment of regular employees is excessively protected
- (3) Insufficient protection of the employment of non-typical workers
- (4) Need to establish a positive law to enhance predictability
- (5) Prolonged working hours of regular employees
- (6) Increase in opportunities for education/training of non-typical workers
- (7) Results of flexible employment: Vicious circle between decline in the covering rates of social insurances and budget rigidity

4. Chairperson's summary statement in the G8 Ministers Employment and Labour Conference (Moscow, October 9-10, 2006)

- (1) Improvement in synergy effect between the labour market policies and social policies
- (2) Creation of more and better employment opportunities in the labour market
- (3) Promotion of investment in human resources and increase in opportunities for lifelong learning
- (4) Effective international cooperation