

Email Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama (104) August 7, 2018 Issue

【To recover daily life in the affected area】

Hello, I'm Masao Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

It has passed 1 month since the disaster happened because of the heavy rain that had been falling from 5th July to 7th July.

In Okayama City, there are more than 3,300 refugees, more than 7,600 houses were damaged and more than 400 offices got damaged due to this disaster. Especially in Hirajima area, where 2,230 houses were damaged by inundation because of the dyke break, the water level was up to height of the adults' shoulder. It was a miracle that we didn't have any death and the missing.

Then now, it seems that we are getting better through the whole affected area as a result of the urgent temporary measure and support to reconstruct their life, such as the management of the emergency evacuation area, the disaster waste collection, the temporary repair of the river and promulgation of the affliction certificate.

However, the conditions of each victim differ from the one in their daily life before the disaster happened. We need to make more effort in order to reconstruct their daily life in response to their needs.

Firstly, about the affliction certification for the various public supports, we enrich the system of the staff to investigate on the spot and issue them as soon as possible.

We have already promulgated over the 90% of the affliction certification for the acceptance in July and we are sincerely working on the office procedure to promulgate in 10 days.

The greater part of the citizens' life has been affected by this disaster. We consider that we need to ease the burden of the victims and reduction or exemption on the national request fee takes effect steady. In addition, we give an extra reduction or exemption rate originally.

【From July to March 2019】

- Exemption of the premium of national health insurance and nursing care insurance for the people in low income brackets **【originally】**
- A rise of the rate of reduction of the childcare fee for the nursery schools and kindergartens from 30% to 50%, extending the term from 6 months to 9 months **【originally】**
- Financial support for school enrollment **【originally】**

【From July to October】

- Exception of the burden at a window of national health insurance, nursing care insurance and later-stage elderly health insurance.
 - Exception of the accident welfare service fee **【originally】**
- ※These supports are intended for the victims whose houses were damaged by inundation above floor level.

Furthermore, the total amount of contribution comes to around 160 million yen by 30th July and, as a primary distribution, we provide them to those who have had the housing damage such as casualties, total destruction, partial destruction, inundation above floor level and partial damage by the mudslide. In addition, according to the seriousness of the situation, we renew the system of the monetary gift which wasn't intended for these disasters and will provide the monetary gift to those who are on contribution-supply list.

We will start to provide on 10th August and those who applied already will be paid more than 50,000 yen per one case (from 50,000 yen up to 220,000 yen, according to the seriousness of the situation.)

We expect that the amount of the expenses will be 2.5 billion yen for the life reconstruction including monetary gift for the disaster (130 million yen,) housing temporary measure (500 million yen) and disaster waste disposal (1.5 billion yen) and it will be around 5.5 billion yen for the recovery of the public facilities. The total amount will reach around 8 billion yen. We are planning to gain the expenses from a revised budget for September and the budget for next fiscal year at the right moment adding some available measures more.

We all will make the best effort continually in order to take the available measure to recover their daily life as soon as possible.