Thursday, March 17, 2011

**Keidanren urges 'command center'**

Kyodo News

Japan Business Federation Chairman Hiromasa Yonekura urged the government Wednesday to set up a strong command center to deliver relief supplies to the Tohoku region disaster zone.

"The lack of a strong control tower is likely to have been dragging delivery of relief goods," the chief of Japan's most influential business lobby, known as Nippon Keidanren, told reporters, while urging the government to disclose accurate information.

"Though companies are trying to send relief supplies, they cannot secure fuel for returning," Yonekura said, stressing that gasoline stations along expressways and supply roads are in need of swift supplies of gasoline.

To deliver gas and relief supplies, Yonekura asked the government to use the Self-Defense Forces more and swiftly issue permits for vehicles to pass through roads.

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The government upped its casualty estimate for a killer quake-tsunami combo by more than a factor of 10. What's your take?

- Forewarned is forearmed. This information will save lives.
- All this does is scare people. It's not helpful.
- It's inspired me to think more seriously about possible evacuation routes.
- Numbers like these aren't much more than a guess.

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