

of the proposed revision of the business corporation law.

By Prof. TAKAYASU OKUSHIMA

## 6. Labor Law

The Japanese economy has undergone a great change since the dollar shock of 1971 and the oil shock of 1974, resulting in structural changes in the labor-management relationship largely due to subsequent inflationary and structural recession.

To cope with the changed circumstances, various laws and ordinances were introduced, especially relating to unemployment insurance and measures to help those thrown out of a job from “industries specially designated as being hit hard by recession.”

In fiscal 1979, however, no law worthy of special attention was introduced mainly because the country had come to enjoy “stabilized economic growth” except in some recession-hit industries. There were no marked changes in the laws relating to collective labor-management relationships. To be exact, there was the “Dust Trouble Prevention Regulation” in the field of safety and sanitation, as explained in the following.

### **Dust Trouble Prevention Order 1979**

(Promulgated, April 25, 1979 and put into force, October 1, 1979. Part of the Order, however, went into force, on October 1, 1980. Order No. 18, 1979, Labor Ministry.) Made up of seven chapters and 28 articles, plus four supplementary provisions.

#### *[Content]*

The Order stipulates that for the purpose of preventing dust trouble, enterprisers should take steps to prevent the occurrence

or proliferation of dust within a prescribed scope while endeavoring to restrict working hours.

*[Comment]*

The Order specifies what steps and obligations should be taken in an attempt to further clarify in concrete terms the obligations in Article 5 of the "Pneumoconiosis Act 1960 (Ch. 30, 1960) and the obligation to shorten working hours in Article 20.3 of the same Act. Now that the obligations of enterprises have been clarified, the Regulation is expected to play an important role in improving the health, safety and security of workers.

The Order, however, is not without major defects in that its application is limited to a "specially designated" type of dust, there is no control over dust concentration, and there is no firm instruction as to the shortening of working hours. Since prevention is the only solution for such an irreversible disease as dust lung, it is strongly hoped that well-defined and detailed regulations will soon be introduced by the Diet.

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## 7. International Law

### —Treaties and Agreements—

*Multilateral;*

Protocol Amending the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean, signed on Apr. 25, 1978, entered into force with Japan on Feb. 15, 1979.

Constitution on the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, signed on Mar. 22, 1977, entered into force with Japan on Feb. 25, 1979.

International Energy Agency Implementing Agreement for a