

# *Hagiri and Associates*

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March 18, 2011  
By e-mail

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Re: Report on the present situation of our firm

Dear colleagues:

We deeply appreciate your great support on the event of the devastating earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. Concerning the earthquake, we would like to report on what the present situation of our firm is to you, and ask for your understanding.

1. The condition of our firm on March 11, 2011

The large earthquake, which we had not experienced before, hit Kanto area including Tokyo around 3:00PM on March 11, 2011. Fortunately, our staffs are safe and our firm did not have any serious losses. However, Tohoku area has been suffering extensive damage over a wide area from enormous tsunamis caused by the earthquake. The size of the damage has not been experienced in Japan according to news reports.

2. The circumstances after the earthquake

After the major earthquake, all the transportations in the Tokyo area were shut down and many people living in the area including our staffs could not get home on that day. Now, the entire Japanese have been frightening some aftershocks following the major earthquake.

As you may know, the first nuclear plant in Fukushima in Japan was partially destroyed and the function has been completely paralyzed. This raises great concerns about possible radiation leaks and Japanese government and all concerned parties give their total efforts to carrying out their tasks for preventing radiation leakage on the plant.

## *Hagiri and Associates*

March 18, 2011

Page 2

For the meanwhile, planned power outages in the Tokyo area due to shortage of electricity supply influence daily lives and commuting of people around the area including our staffs. Also, this leads to severe energy shortages such as gasoline.

### 3. The present operation of our firm

Because of the electricity shortage and difficulty in commuting, it becomes impossible for our staffs to get home. Therefore, we are now closing our office earlier than usual business hours.

Moreover, when our clients have not only the headquarters but also the subsidiary company and the laboratory, etc. in Tohoku area, they are not able to function as usual.

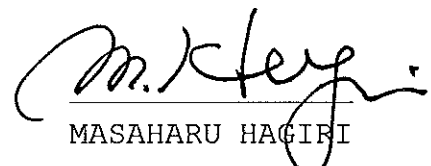
### 4. Our request to you

Though the event which we have been dealing with is the unprecedented experience to us, we work hard and the business of our office currently goes back to normal service. However, we might not be able to do prompt correspondence because of circumstances of our clients.

We appropriately correspond to you as much as possible, and at the same time, we would like to ask for your kind cooperation more than ever before until the influence of this earthquake becomes small.

We appreciate for your understanding of any inconvenience this may cause.

Very truly yours,

  
MASAHARU HAGIRI  
PATENT ATTORNEY

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