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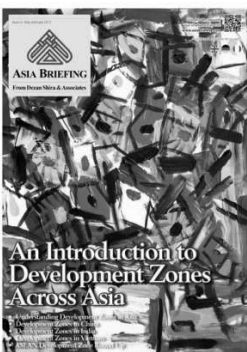
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Shandong, Hubei Rule No Layoffs Without Approval

Posted on November 18, 2008 by China Briefing

Nov. 18 – Companies based in Shandong and Hubei provinces are now required to apply for approval to lay off more than 40 or more workers.

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Shandong and Hubei provinces are now required to apply for approval to lay off more than 40 or more workers.

The regulation amends on the national labor contract law implemented last January. According to the national labor contract law, companies that want to lay off more than 20 employees must first apply for approval from labor authorities.

labor contract law to the national labor contract law, companies that want to lay off more than 20 employees must first apply for approval from labor authorities.

Wang Kexing, head of the unemployment section of the Shandong human resources department, told China Daily that he decided to launch the order in response to the global financial crisis, and in the wake of several layoffs in Shandong, Guangdong and Zhejiang, leaving workers stranded.

ent and social insurance resources and social security agencies have responded to the global financial crisis of company bosses from fleeing their responsibilities

Last October, the government of Guangdong Province paid for the salaries of about 7,000 workers amounting to RMB24 million after a company owner fled.

gguan in Guangdong than 7,000 workers company owner fled.

China's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security has advised local government to ensure stable employment levels and monitoring labor-intensive factories that are susceptible to layoffs.

Liu Junsheng from the labor-wage institute of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security told China Daily: "These measures can help protect social stability, which is now more important than economic development."

For the first nine months of the year, more than 680,000 people were unemployed in Shandong despite the province being one of the country's exports hubs.

The Hubei provincial human resource and social security department said that companies must inform local governments 30 days prior to laying off 50 or more employees, or 10 percent of their total workforce, reports China Daily.

China's state-owned companies have been instructed to reduce salaries, rather than layoff workers.

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