

Research on Pilot Project for Establishing Local Contingency System against the Chemical Accident

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1. Purpose of Research

- The need of establishing local contingency system such as enacting the certain ordinances against the chemical accident increases as the right to know of people for chemical materials is actively assured as per the 「Chemical Material Control Act」 enforced in 2015.
- However, since no guidelines as to what sort of accident contingency systems should be built for local societies exist, the building of practically effective contingency plan holds back only staying with enacting of related ordinances.
- The present research is intended to develop a manual providing guidelines by establishing the local contingency system theory reviewing the overseas references, promoting a model project for establishing the local contingency system fitting to the Korean culture and actual situation of Korea, and integrating the theory analysis & model project process together.

2. Major Aspects

- Theory for local contingency system preparing against chemical accident
- Studies on overseas references.
- Establishing model and promotion of demonstration project
- Development of manual for building local contingency system against chemical accident.

3. Results

- The ways of successfully building and operating the local contingency system against chemical accident may vary depending on the social, cultural & economical situation of each country.
 - Yet, when comprehending the local societies and their APELL(Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level) Programs the LEPC(Local Emergency Planing Committee) of U.S.A. having successfully built, it is desirable to define the contingency system prepared against the chemical accident as a plan to consistently strengthen the countermeasure capability by discovering the potential chemical accident risks in local societies and assessing the countermeasure capability coping with the mentioned risks rather than vaguely understanding the system establishing a contingency plan
- No desirable model reinforced of local society's capability in the arena of Korean environment policies, but it was confirmed that establishing the local society's capability reinforced model including the provision for granting rights for variety of issues as verified from the overseas references.
- Establishing the ordinances by each local area may be understood as a specific Korean situation, and the ordinances to be enacted are regarded working as a core instrument for building the local contingency plan against chemical accident by each local area. Considering the limitation the LEPC of U.S.A. experienced due to no provision for budgeting and manpower, the ordinances to be enacted in Korean societies should be a very crucial instrument in preventing such limitation mentioned above.
 - As well, with respect to the point that the local system is to be formalized, the instability of APELL can be supplemented. The ordinances to be enacted preparing against the chemical accident are expected to work as a stepping stones in the process of migrating to European style societies where the local municipal assemblies manage the chemical accident risks.

- The status of local government is solidly established as a responsible entity to its own territory through the present research. The conclusion drawn from research includes the requirement that the Ministry of Environment is supposed to take a role of supporting and promoting in building of chemical accident contingency systems by each local area.
 - Particularly, enhancing the quality of information allowing coping with the chemical accidents by including those small & medium business sites in the areas that can be potentially missing in the Chemical Material Statistics Survey through cooperation with local governments, and the cultivation of qualified coordinators capable of supporting building of chemical accident contingency system by each area as well as the Ministry of Environment's building & operating of solid network among the chemical accident contingency systems through the coordinators mentioned above are required.

4. Applications

- While the progress of demonstration projects conducted in Suwon and Yeosu areas have been delayed from the plan, the projects resulted in substantially solid outcome, of which the delay came from lack of comprehension that the progressing local projects usually takes good deal of time.
 - Accordingly, the demonstration projects should be planned taking aim for a target with which the certain output of research can be obtained within the research period in the future.
 - Also, as the projects in Suwon and Yeosu areas are expected to resulted more outcome in the forthcoming days, executing the continuous monitoring of projects is recommended.
- The present research did successfully remove the misunderstanding and fear prevailing among the local governments, enterprises and citizens' social organizations, and yet the risk communication with local residents has not been attempted so far.
 - Therefore, it is suggested to revise the manual prepared for building local society chemical accident contingency system as provided in this research by finding the plan from the projects in Suwon and Yeosu areas as to who and how the risk communication with local residents is to be conducted.
- Proceeding with the chemical accident contingency system building project by each local area in the future should be planned subject to the preparation of coordinators who will lead the progress of projects by the concerned local society.

- The reason behind this is that, the successful building of local contingency system cannot be made having any outside experts provide knowledge but obtainable by offering a forum allowing the concerned stakeholder mutually recognize, respect and have dialogues with the other parties.
- While the local governments or concerned enterprises may take a role of coordinator, and yet it is expected the probability of success in building successful local contingency system will greatly increase by having the representatives of local citizens' social organizations holding broadminded leadership take the role of coordinator.

5. Source

- Ministry of Environment (www.me.go.kr)