

Eviction of Tenants due to Lack of Security in Buildings and Hotels in Japan

Quality Infrastructure

METROLOGY STANDARDS TESTING **CERTIFICATION** **ACCREDITATION** QUALITY MANAGEMENT

PROBLEM Poorly constructed buildings

In 2005 a famous architect deceived the Japanese authorities. He falsified some of the structural calculations which guarantee the security of buildings under construction, including the testing of resistance to earthquakes. Once the fraud was discovered the residents were evicted from the buildings. About a hundred residential buildings and hotels had to be torn down and rebuild, which led to a considerable economic loss.

BACKGROUND Materials of low quality and falsified test results

Cheap materials of poor quality were used for the construction of the buildings, while negative results regarding the resistance were concealed by the private testing agency. The control on part of the responsible institution for the supervision of security standards was not sufficient and the falsifications were not discovered. Until 1999 the certification of constructions was usually done by the regional government. Then the law of construction standards was revised and allowed private companies to carry out the certification. This change of law gave way to falsifications and fraud.

SOLUTION Accreditation with international recognition

The solution to this problem starts with an internationally recognized system of accreditation. By “monitoring” the certification organizations it prevents fraud and ensures the quality of constructions. Through accreditation a certification institution can also demonstrate its technical competence.

IMPACT Monitoring and guarantee of quality

The government is obliged to supervise and guarantee the security of buildings under construction. This is an obligation towards its citizens. In order to fulfil their duty public authorities can implement instruments of a Quality Infrastructure, like an internationally recognized accreditation system. This mechanism allows them to control the entire process of construction and to avoid possible fraud on the part of private companies. Thereby the final quality of the building is guaranteed as well as the safety of the construction workers, proper residents and their neighbours.

SOURCES

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architectural_forgery_in_Japan

Providing solutions in the areas
ENVIRONMENT INDUSTRY **CONSTRUCTION** **SECURITY** HEALTH CONSUMER PROTECTION TRADE AGRICULTURE