Commentary

Report of Community Dialog Forum for Residents of Fukushima Prefecture with ICRP on Returning Life to Normal in Areas Affected with Long Term Radiation from the Fukushima Nuclear Accident

−09:30−13:00 November 3, 2012, at Korasse Fukushima−

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A dialog forum was held with residents of Fukushima Prefecture by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) to discuss the recovery of life in areas affected by long-term radiation from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident. The current circumstances and problems were presented by evacuees together with people involved in the media, the food industry, decontamination work, and so on. Concerns over radiation and a loss of trust in the government were voiced before solutions were discussed. Fukushima must share information proactively to dispel harmful rumors.

I. Introduction

With decontamination work underway, the Nakadori region in Fukushima Prefecture is finally regaining some stability one year and nine months after the accident occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plants (NPP), which are operated by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO). However, an undeniable gloom is cast by any monitoring post readings that exceed 0.23 μSv/h. Meanwhile, an article written by Kunio Yanagida with the title "Ignored Plight of Victims" was published in the *Shimotsuke Shimbun* (a local news paper) on August 15 of this year (2012). In the opening to the article, the author lamented having heard a story from a friend about a family he was acquainted with whose son wanted to get married to his girlfriend from Fukushima. His parents vehemently opposed the marriage and forced them to break up on the basis that she may have been exposed to radiation during her visit to her family home. About the same time, the president of a zealous environmental non-profit organization mentioned that marriage to women from Fukushima should be avoided. The frequent media coverage in opposition to the disposal of disaster debris within an extensive area made even the author—who became a resident of Fukushima from April that year—think that he should also speak up. The author had learned that the International

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Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), the moderator of three earlier dialog forums that were held in the prefecture after the accident, was going to organize another one in Fukushima mainly to discuss how to ensure that local voices would be heard. This commentary summarizes what the author heard at the meeting.

II. Dialog Forum

The program for the dialog forum is shown in **Table 1**. The forum convened 15 members of the ICRP, 11 speakers representing Fukushima Prefecture, 8 related government officials, 26 observers, and 10 personnel from the forum secretariat. ICRP members are from 11 countries, and hence the forum was highly international.

In his opening address, Director-General Toshinobu Sato of the Environmental Health Department represented the Ministry of the Environment as the forum organizer. He mentioned that the ministry had established the Radiation Health Management Office in line with the creation of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority in September that year. After Dr. Claire Cousins had given an address as chair of the ICRP Main Commission, Mr. Jacques Lochard began moderating the forum and explained how important it was for residents to participate in efforts to restore communities affected by radioactive contamination.

Table 1 Program of the dialog forum

9:00	Doors open
9:30	Meeting starts
09:30–09:35	Opening address Speaker: Mr. Toshinobu Sato, Radiation Health Management Councilor, Ministry of the Environment
09:35–09:40	Welcome address by the member representing the panel of experts Speaker: Dr. Claire Cousins, Chair, ICRP Main Commission
09:40–09:50	Topic: The importance of the involvement of residents in returning life to normal after an incident of radiation contamination Speaker: Mr. Jacques Lochard, Chair, ICRP Committee 4
09:50–10:30	Messages from Fukushima community members Message from the local media Mr. Masaya Hayakawa (*Fukushima Minpo (a local news media)*) Message from local residents Ms. Reiko Hachisuka (Okuma Town) Message from the local medical fraternity Dr. Toshiyuki Tsuchiya (Tsuchiya Hospital) Message from the decontamination team Mr. Masaru Moriya (Ministry of the Environment's Fukushima Decontamination Promotion Team)
10:30–10:45	Morning break
10:45–12:25	Roundtable discussion: Dialog between Fukushima residents, community members and the international experts Facilitator: Mr. Jacques Lochard, Chair, ICRP Committee 4 Information provided by: Mr. Katsuhiko Kikuchi (*Fukushima Minyu Shimbun (a local news media)*), Mr. Makoto Omori (TV-U Fukushima, Inc.), Ms. Mizuho Kajiwara (*The Asahi Shimbun(a major news media)*), Mr. Toshimatsu Sato (JA (Japan Agriculture Cooperation) Shin Fukushima), Mr. Takahiro Hanzawa (Date City), Mr. Shunkichi Nonaka (Co-op (a consumer cooperation group) Fukushima), Ms. Yuuko Sakita (NPO Genki Net), and Ms. Harumi Sato (Tomioka Town) Exchange of views between the roundtable discussion panel and audience on the floor
12:25–12:30	Final conclusion of roundtable discussion Speaker: Acad. Abel González, Vice-Chair, ICRP Main Commission
12:30	Meeting closes

The ICRP helps to introduce more effective radiological protection measures by holding direct dialog with those affected to listen to their concerns and expectations and assessing the local conditions. It encourages those affected to take heed of the lessons learned from Chernobyl, to conduct radiation monitoring, and to assess and understand their conditions in a common language with the aim of facilitating the implementation of a protection strategy and protective activities. Dialog forums, including the three other ones held in Fukushima, must be open to all people. The media are expected to report widely on these discussions. This forum stressed how important it is to ensure that local voices are heard. They quoted the following feedback from Ryoko Ando, who represented an Iwaki NGO called the Ethos of Fukushima: "After the nuclear accident, raging voices over Fukushima left behind those of us who live in Fukushima. Everybody wanted to have their say, disregarding what we think and feel. I could not accept that. I even felt angry. The reason why I started ETHOS in Fukushima comes from the conviction that it is we who should narrate our life. In the midst of the turmoil, ICRP111 was the only support for our mind."

III. Voices from Fukushima

1. Message from the Local Media Mr. Masaya Hayakawa (Fukushima Minpo)

Fukushima has not made as much progress as that claimed by the ICRP in terms of decontamination, waste processing, radiological education, and health surveys. Residents of the prefecture have swayed slightly between a perceived sense of safety and danger. Local residents seem to have developed a certain degree of understanding about the basic idea of protection against radiation, but such reassurance has not allowed them to cast aside their concerns. In fact, some families cook separate meals for their children to reduce their radiological risks. In reality, scientific evidence concerning their safety has not reassured local residents. Furthermore, the ICRP was asked a question regarding an NHK broadcast on a Ukrainian government report that pointed out the radiological influence on health after the accident.

(In response, the ICRP endorsed a report issued by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) stating that the Chernobyl Accident has not been found to pose any radiological health risks to the local population, except for childhood thyroid cancer. Ukraine's national team is a member of the UNSCEAR. The government of Ukraine has also endorsed this report.)

2. Message from Local Residents Ms. Reiko Hachisuka (Okuma Town)

Ms. Hachisuka is the president of the Okuma Chamber of Commerce. She does not know what to believe anymore as she struggles as an evacuee in Aizu-Wakamatsu. She has highlighted the government's inadequate handling of the situation. Despite Okuma being the closest town to the Fukushima Daiichi NPP, no radiological education had ever been organized for local residents. It was only after the accident occurred that they began to hear unfamiliar terms like "millisievert" and "Becquerel." Although the younger generations can access the necessary information through books or the Internet, members of the older generations who are unfamiliar with these tools tend to be out of touch with the latest information. Ms. Hachisuka even went to Ukraine and Belarus to hear about the accident that happened there. These visits led her to develop certain doubts, too. However, wherever she went, she was told that the protection of the health of children should be conducted with maximum efforts. She

would like to hear information related to future hazards and health protection in plain language that is free of any jargon so that it can be understood clearly enough by elderly persons in their 70s and 80s. Whole-body counters and other such systems should be deployed in accessible places to facilitate quick testing. The forests in Ukraine and Belarus have not been decontaminated yet, but they are properly managed to prevent wildfires by clearing the underbrush. There must be an alternative for Fukushima, even if its forests cannot be decontaminated.

(In response, Mr. González commented that the Chernobyl Accident caused a greater amount of radioactivity across a wider area than the Fukushima Accident did. In the Chernobyl Accident, children suffered much greater internal exposure by drinking contaminated milk, so the radioactive impact of the two accidents is almost incomparable. In Fukushima, it is more practical to compare the local radiation levels with the exposure dose rate caused by natural radiation.)

3. Message from the Local Medical Fraternity Dr. Toshiyuki Tsuchiya (Tsuchiya Hospital)

The presentation covered how the medical systems of local medical associations worked after the Fukushima NPP Accident, many reflection points and their subsequent maintenance status, and the migration of healthcare practitioners out of Fukushima Prefecture. Dr. Tsuchiya had thought that things would somehow be managed during the confusion that prevailed in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. However, the information on the disaster caused by the accident that he received after the earthquake far exceeded his expectations. In particular, the radiation exposure was completely unexpected. Worse still, all means of communication were lost. Local medical associations and institutions could not communicate through fixed and mobile phones, faxes, or the Internet. Unable to evacuate, patients were left stranded. It took three days before a rescue team from Japan's Self-Defense Force reached Futaba Hospital (in Okuma Town), and they only managed to evacuate about 30 of the 120 patients (total: 44 persons) there. The hospital arranged suitable destinations for these patients and somehow eventually managed to bring them to Iwaki on a chartered bus by taking a detour (through Minamisoma). During this evacuation, however, almost 20 patients lost their lives. The Fukushima Medical Association had developed a medical rescue plan in April 2006 for responding to accidents, but this plan did not work because the local medical associations and the integrated medical information system for the prefecture failed to collect information on sustained damage. Without any medical teams to coordinate the medical response, the rescue teams from the Emergency Response Headquarters in Fukushima Prefecture could only react to the on-site situation in a haphazard manner at best. Those people who were exposed to radiation and the medical practitioners responding to the accident had insufficient knowledge on what levels of contamination and doses would be dangerous. The three-tiered medical system was designed to provide initial and secondary radiation emergency care before offering further care at the National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS). In reality, though, only the Fukushima Rosai Hospital and Iwaki Kyoritsu Hospital could handle the initial care. Fukushima Medical University and other institutions did not have anywhere near the necessary capacity. In light of this, a consensus was reached to assign roles as follows: Iwaki Kyoritsu Hospital and Fukushima Rosai Hospital would offer initial radiation emergency care; Fukushima Medical University would attend to severely injured persons who had been exposed to radiation; the NIRS would attend to more severe cases; and other hospitals, mainly in Iwaki, would offer other fine-tuned treatment. Another issue was the decreasing number

of doctors available at hospitals, which had already fallen by 79 compared to March 1, 2011. This problem is particularly noticeable among promising junior doctors. Furthermore, almost 500 nurses have left Fukushima, a fact that contributes to harmful rumors.

(Dr. Cousins of the ICRP stated that education on medical measures implemented after the NPP Accident together with fundamental knowledge of radiation and radiation protection is required even among medical students as she suspects that few doctors around the world have even the knowledge of radiation and know-how required to respond to an accident.)

4. Message from the Decontamination Team Mr. Masaru Moriya (Ministry of the Environment's Fukushima Decontamination Promotion Team)

An explanation of the decontamination work was provided using a distribution map of radioactive contamination. In accordance with recommendations issued by the ICRP, the national government plans to conduct decontamination work in areas with an annual additional exposure dose that exceeds 20 mSv and evacuation zones within 20 km of the Fukushima Daiichi NPP to reduce the dose to 20 mSv/y or less. Municipalities plan to conduct decontamination work in other areas with a dose of no more than 20 mSv/y to reduce it to 10 mSv initially and then to no more than 1 mSv/y over the long term. Decontamination work is conducted according to the relevant guidelines published in December 2011. In accordance with the roadmap announced this January (2012), decontamination work will be focused on living areas, especially houses, surrounding farmland and forests as well as residential roads. Since the decontamination work will be conducted for houses and other private properties, Japanese law requires the provision of a pre-description to all residents, the acquisition of their consent on the dose measurement and decontamination work, and then the provision of a notification of the results. At the same time, procedures ranging from the provision of explanations concerning temporary decontamination waste storage spaces to the borrowing of such spaces are carried out (author's note: these processes are taking a particularly long time). The

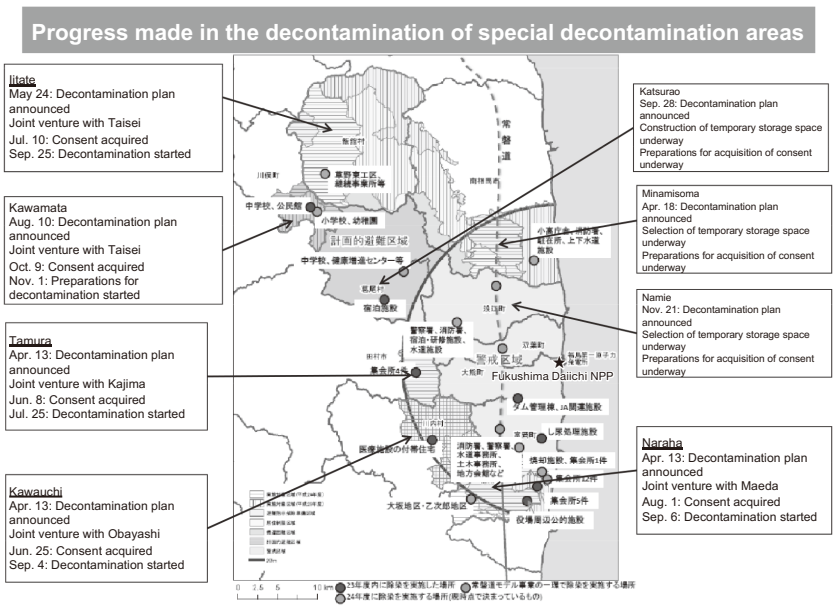

Figure 1 Progress made in decontamination of special decontamination areas by the national government

speaker explained the progress that has been made in relation to the decontamination efforts conducted directly by the national government in 11 municipalities. With the national government having established a decontamination plan for seven municipalities (Tamura, Naraha, Kawauchi, Iitate, Kawamata, Katsurao, and Minamisoma), consent is being sought in the five municipalities from Tamura to Kawamata and full-fledged decontamination work is underway in Tamura, Naraha, Kawauchi, and Iitate (author's note: later, Namie also announced a decontamination plan). **Figure 1** presents the progress that has been made in the decontamination work for the eight municipalities that have announced decontamination plans. Along with the target areas in each municipality for fiscal 2012 and 2013, the figure shows details such as the announcement date for the decontamination plan, the status of requests for consent, the start date for decontamination work, and the name of the contractor. The decontamination work on the Joban Expressway is scheduled for completion by the end of June next year (2013). In the pursuit of municipality-led decontamination work, 104 municipalities from eight prefectures with an annual additional exposure dose of 1 mSv or more were prioritized in the conducting of surveys. The presenter showed the names of 86 municipalities that discussed their decontamination plans with the national government. He pointed to the need for a faster pace in decontamination work, the decontamination and restoration of farmland, the decontamination of forests, enhanced decontamination and monitoring technologies, the exchange of information and findings on radiation risks, and coordination between decontamination work and infrastructure recovery. On a final note, he introduced the Decontamination Information Plaza, which is operated jointly by the prefectural government of Fukushima and the Ministry of the Environment. This plaza exhibits the progress that has been made in decontamination work and the technologies that are employed, shares information through its website and other means, dispatches experts to share knowledge on decontamination and radiation at workshops, and organizes various courses and briefing sessions.

IV. Roundtable Discussion: Dialog between Fukushima Residents, Community Members and International Experts

1. How Can We Find Out the Truth and Act Based on Reliable Information?

Sakita: Confusion seems to be caused by the inadequate way in which the government communicates with local residents. Even at briefing sessions for residents, the decontamination work promoters only provide information on matters that have already been decided. An agreement cannot be reached because residents feel that their voices are not being heard. The way things are managed must be changed. A common awareness of the issues must be shared throughout Japan as a whole to address misunderstandings and harmful rumors among people living outside Fukushima. Information must be shared to help them learn more about the situation in Fukushima.

Sato (H): The evacuation was ordered without any prior explanation. The first destination was Kawauchi, which had a population of 4,000, but entry was refused when as many as 16,000 residents of Tomioka flooded the village. While people were evacuating without any assistance, they were peremptorily ordered to undergo screening tests. They finally managed to settle in Iwaki. (Author's note: Discrimination against people exposed to radiation is undeniable after hearing about the manner in which this test was conducted and the fact that the authorities assigned rooms to segregate these people from evacuees from other low-contamination districts. Ms. Sato shared her understandable mistrust in the announcements

made by the national and prefectural governments, considering they were forced to manage for themselves in total chaos.) Ms. Sato made the constructive comment that, in order to rebuild trust, genuinely trustworthy information should be provided at events held by organizations that residents can trust, such as the ICRP.

Nonaka: Co-op Fukushima has conducted measurements of the radiation doses of meals cooked by 100 households in the prefecture. It also conducts measurements of internal doses using whole-body counters and organizes study sessions on radiation. These activities convinced some evacuees on Ishigaki Island (Okinawa Prefecture) to return home. It is important for people to develop their own measure for radiation.

Hanzawa: Study sessions or other sorts of briefing sessions were repeatedly organized, thereby helping to build trust with community leaders. As a result, decisions on temporary storage yards could be entrusted to these leaders without the involvement of city government personnel. Instead of setting a one-size-fits-all standard, it is important to stress patiently that dose levels will be reduced as much as possible.

Sato (T): JA Shin Fukushima is conducting radiation inspections of food prior to shipment by using 45 NaI scintillation detectors and one germanium detector. In a period of seven months starting from April this year (2012), 24 t of food was disposed of after measurements had been conducted on 24,000 items. Most measured doses were below the detection limit of 20 Bq/kg. Only 38 of 5,460 peaches, a local specialty, carried a dose of between 20 and 50 Bq/kg. People in the prefecture are all concerned that an overreaction to Fukushima products with a dose rate exceeding the threshold may fuel a fear of these products. The safe adoption of these products for school meals will help to reassure people. The dose limit of 100 Bq/kg is too stringent for farmers and the food industry. The presenter shared his idea of allowing people to eat what they feel is sufficiently safe while introducing suitable shipping and intake restrictions. (The Swedish government initially set the dose limit for reindeer meat to 300 Bq/kg, the same as that for other food products. This limit was later raised to 1,500 Bq/kg in 1987 in consideration of reindeer-rearing farmers and the levels of meat contamination during nuclear tests conducted by the USSR when no limit was set. Moreover, the government decided not to preclude the consumption of meat with a dose of less than 10,000 Bq/kg among Sámi people in consideration of their unique dietary culture as long as their annual exposure doses do not exceed a specified limit. (author's note: *How Swedish Society Protects Itself from Radioactive Contamination* (in Swedish), translated by Sachiko Takami and Yoshihiro Sato)).

Omori: Data shows that the exposure doses in Fukushima were lower than the doses caused by the Chernobyl Accident by an order of two. The same is true for internal exposure. Media coverage prioritizes fairness, and the media never mentions whether the measured doses are safe enough. They convey only low dose levels in Fukushima and leave any judgment to the viewer. Radiation is always discussed from two opposing perspectives, which might be causing confusion among people. Moreover, news articles on any improvements made by the decontamination work are not published very often outside the prefecture. For the first time in two years, an elementary school in Fukushima was able to organize a sports festival this spring (2012). During our remote broadcast of the news, staff from the flagship station asked why we were not broadcasting images of kids wearing masks. I exploded and yelled at them. Local stations struggle with stereotypes such as this being imposed by their flagship stations.

Kikuchi: Although self-help and autonomy among residents and a participatory approach to decontamination plans and decontamination work are discussed, more tangible measures for involving local residents are required in order to stress the need for decontamination work. Decontamination work and food inspections are left solely in the hands of contractors, which

leads to a sense of anxiety about the results. People would feel more convinced if they checked for radioactivity themselves. Consequently, creative measures are needed to provide parents with information that will allow them to learn how this can be done.

2. Dialog

Lochard: Despite all of the various different views, the situation on the ground must be steadily improved to ease concerns over radiation. Numbers and figures may serve as a guide for taking action, but ultimately what matters is how the landowners feel about their own situation. Just like Ms. Harumi Sato has done, it is important to go and meet people and obtain information through dialog and then take joint action to help each other. It is also important to send messages from Fukushima Prefecture to people outside the prefecture. (After this summary, the participants moved onto the following dialog.)

(Health effects of radiation exposure)

Menzel: The risk of 0.5% that is associated with 100 mSv means that a cancer rate of 40% without exposure will only rise to 40.5% after exposure to 100 mSv. This interpretation can be justified by evidence. The ICRP adopts a proportional model without a threshold for lower doses to be on the safe side. Exposure caused by the Fukushima Daiichi NPP Accident is added to natural radiation and medical exposure; it does not begin from zero.

Hachisuka: I am concerned about cysts being discovered among over 30% of young people from Fukushima Prefecture who underwent thyroid cancer tests.

Tsuchiya: Thyroids are unlikely to manifest an abnormality in such a short time even if they are exposed to a significant amount of radiation.

Niwa: Today's thyroid tests are so advanced that they can detect even tiny cysts, thereby raising the apparent detection rate. However, the cysts themselves are not considered abnormal, as they can be found among healthy people. Thyroid cancers develop slowly. The real impact can be assessed two years later and thereafter.

(Radiological education)

Sakita: No radiological education has been conducted in communities around the nuclear power plant and relevant information has not been provided to communities hosting evacuees. Information must be sorted and directed in a better way.

González: ICRP members are radiologists, scientists, and other experts in radiological protection. We cannot offer social advice. Instead, we help people obtain a deeper understanding based on scientific evidence.

Cousins: Today's dialog has taught us that advice and recommendations from the ICRP must be rephrased more clearly to make it easy for non-experts to understand.

Lochard: The ICRP analyzes issues from the scientific perspectives of experts with a diverse range of views. They offer their opinions as scientists, but some also propose actions. For instance, they can provide advice on what mothers could do to feel more reassured and how farmers could make sure that their products are safe enough.

3. Additional Comments

(Requests)

Nonaka: The victims of the Fukushima Daiichi NPP Accident are residents of this prefecture. Please understand that most mothers and evacuees who have not received sufficient

compensation find it hard to accept explanations that are intended to convince people of the supposed safety of the local environment compared to, say, exposure during a flight on an aircraft between Tokyo and New York.

Sato (H): In the last thyroid inspection, cysts were identified in one-third of individuals. I would like the government to carry out enough nationwide studies to be able to determine if this problem is unique to Fukushima or common among people in that age bracket.

Hayakawa: I would like the ICRP to post their opinions concerning reports from Ukraine in the space designated for communication in Japanese.

Sato (H): The media are expected to report everything in a neutral manner rather than picking out remarks that suit the expectations of the media. The more local they are, the more they should endeavor to deliver information that will genuinely help the people of Fukushima.

Omori: As a person responsible for local media coverage, I always think about how I can do it properly to ensure that my reports do not cause any damage as a result, without building up the image of the evacuees required by the central media.

(How to ease concerns among mothers)

Sakita: Mothers are worried about the food that their families eat. Young women are worried about whether their future children may be affected. The correct information must be provided to address these questions. (Author's note: Mothers regret having caused their own children's exposure to radiation. They are constantly trying to avoid additional exposure. Anxiety over radiation is no doubt building up among them.)

Sato (H): Mothers in general do not have sufficient knowledge to be able to interpret the standards. It would be helpful to have some form of measure that would allow them to compare radiation doses from food before and after the accident.

Nonaka: An important step is the decontamination work. The Co-op holds study sessions on internal exposure to explain that a food intake of 70,000 Bq amounts to 1 mSv per year. With this relationship in mind, people can calculate that the intake of the 30 Bq contained in wild mushrooms amounts to 0.4 μSv per year (author's note: The correct figure is 45,000 Bq, not 70,000 Bq).

Hanzawa: People have gained more knowledge after the many rounds of briefing sessions that we have held, so they sometimes catch us by surprise with new questions. I believe people feel reassured if we provide the correct information as many times as necessary until they are convinced.

Sato (T): Mothers get extremely anxious if any abnormalities are found in their children during thyroid inspections. It is quite depressing to see many situations like this. The provision of appropriate support to worried mothers is vital. A conducive environment must be shaped to facilitate face-to-face communication among the many people who share the same circumstances. As an agricultural cooperative, we consider it is important to thoroughly measure radiation from our products and share relevant information about the fact that these products clear the radiation standard level for shipping.

Tsuchiya: I would like to acquire the knowledge and skills required to be able to provide proper answers to the various questions raised by many kinds of visitors.

Hachisuka: The national government should enact a new law for the issuance of special booklets for recording the healthcare of affected people. The owners of these booklets should be able to record their exposure doses as well as the exposure dates and places.

Omori: Briefing sessions for small groups of up to ten people should be held so that those who are more knowledgeable can offer explanations and advice to the other participants.

Kikuchi: Trust comes first before the gaining of any special knowledge. Newspapers need

to regain the trust that they lost due to this accident.

Lochard: This dialog has shed light on some of the concerns held by the people of Fukushima. We will try our best to provide useful information to ease these concerns. The ICRP members will also discuss these matters. We look forward to making further progress together at the next meeting.

V. Conclusions

This was the first time the author participated in a dialog with the ICRP. It provided him with an opportunity to listen directly to the views of evacuees affected by the NPP Accident. Mistrust toward the government lingers as a result of matters such as the lack of information provided during the evacuation, the later controversies over radiation, the decontamination plans developed unilaterally by the government, and the delay to decontamination work. Various views were exchanged on how the trust of local residents could be regained. Some participants pointed out that the level of radioactive contamination in Fukushima is still low compared to that experienced during the Chernobyl Accident when graphite caught fire and even the nuclear fuel materials were released. Thanks to the progress that has been made in the decontamination work conducted in rice paddies and orchards, key crops such as rice, peaches and vegetables already satisfy the new standards for radioactively contaminated foods. Nonetheless, the mainstream media tend to push the expected image of affected communities. As a result, the views expressed by those from Fukushima seemed all the more important. Our most urgent task is to listen to the evacuees' needs and share information in the way that they intend. Since the cesium adsorbed in soil at Japanese farms is generally insoluble to water, the idea of scraping off a thicker layer of topsoil than usual will be applicable to the decontamination of rice paddies, so a non-profit organization is experimenting with this idea. The removed contaminated soil would then be stored underground in a large hole and covered by the uncontaminated soil that was obtained when the hole was dug. These ideas and other such efforts are expected to provide solutions to the decontamination of difficult-to-return zones, forests, and other highly contaminated areas while at the same time easing problems related to the need for temporary storage space. In order to adopt these ideas in the actual decontamination work, the support of local residents will be needed. The types of stakeholder dialogs that are commonly held in the West seem to provide an effective means of reaching consensus through frank and equal exchanges among the government, utility companies, and residents. The author hopes that the AESJ and its members will offer closer support to Fukushima and engage in nationwide risk communication concerning radiation to help dispel harmful rumors. It should be noted that the Fukushima Special Project established by the Cleanup Subcommittee of the AESJ cooperates with the Decontamination Information Plaza along with many other AESJ members who are registered as experts at the plaza. The website for the plaza (http://josen-plaza.env.go.jp/) posts decontamination updates. A video of this dialog forum can be accessed via the following URL: http://togetter.com/li/400999.