

311 Fukushima Nuclear PPT Accidents became the starting point for solidarity to shut the door of the "Nuke Generation"

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* Markers parts may be skipped if the time is short

Introduction

I am now grateful for this valuable opportunity to speak, and for the next 15 minutes, I would like to introduce some of the voices of Fukushima locals for over the past ten years and tell them the lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident.

In addition to nuclear and radiological damage, which has long threatened the very survival of humanity, I would like to consider and discuss with the participants strategies to eliminate the damage caused by policies that include discrimination, absurdity, and irrationality, which can be called manmade disasters.

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At first, I would like to talk why I have a motivation and perspectives in this issue.

In 1990, 4 years after Chernobyl, when I started working a local newspaper company as a staff writer in Fukushima Prefecture, the coverage of the nuclear power plant was focused on the "F2 on 3rd Unit accident" (the underwater bearing ring of the reactor recirculation pump at Unit 3 of the Fukushima Dai-ni #2 NPPS and the accident of dropping or breaking the pump) that occurred on the first day of 1989.

The lack of safety awareness of TEPCO, which continued to operate while the abnormal alarm rang, and the delay (being late) in reporting to the local community, and local governments, as well as the fatigue break in the welding area resulting from the later revelation of aging.

Faced with an accident questioning the very foundation of nuclear safety, our reporters and including me, would be covering on the front lines of accidents could become "the first exposure scout" and/or "the special coverage soldier as Kamikaze pilot."

We discussed among young reporters in Fukushima, about "Response to the nuclear accident", "what differences each companies nuclear emergency manual", "what is the content of each media company's nuclear power plant coverage manuals and policies?", and "are radioactive measuring instruments and Iodine pill in-office?"

At the time, one company's manual states that the company should "approach the front line and convey what they have seen and heard

there." Another company recommends that the company should "keep as far away from the nuclear power plant as possible and conduct telephone interviews." Equipment such as stable iodine tablets varied from company to company. We were confronted with the questions of "What would we do for ourselves?" and the realities of "Even if we follow the company's manual, we are not always able to report safely" and "we need to make our own judgments on the ground."

In front of the nuclear power plant, I was unable to understand the absolute affirmation of safety and life, that is, "If we feel a danger in the field, we must take action with the highest priority on our lives."

This suffering experience is my source of lessons learned from the nuclear accident. "Don't stop thinking. Don't give up communicating. ' Even after time passes, the sound of the alarm in my mind is still ringing with my pain. One lessons from Fukushima Nuke accident in 2011 is that we threw away our "Safety Myth " for nuclear industries.

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We have the Question;

1. Long-term damage and loss - Is there a deadline and period for the "damage"? Until when will it last?

One of the major characteristics of the Fukushima nuclear accident and human-caused disasters, such as radioactivity and nuclear damage, is that there are many phases beyond our expectations and the damage has been prolonged.

It is clear when the Fukushima nuclear accident occurred. It is March 11,2011.

So, on the other hand, when can we say that this disaster is "over"?
Is there a deadline?

So, if I try to say loudly, *"When the last one of the victims of the Fukushima nuclear accident died."* At that moment, however, we can instantly see that "it's different." This is because the broken reactors at TEPCO's Fukushima Dai-ichi #1 NPP, the melted fuel debris, and the radioactive nuclides released into the environments continue to survive afterwards. It's a life-long ghost that keeps releasing radiation in a span longer than a person's life.

Moreover, no matter how hard you try, you can't recover all the radioactivity emitted into the natural environment outside the reactor.

There may be someone who says this. "Radiation has a half-life, so it will eventually disappear." However, if you open your eyes and think about it, the words clearly indicate that the effect of radiation is not zero. We must fundamentally question how our society should be. "Can we tolerate and accept radiation, nuclear damage, and the threat that

affects everyone from adults to children, their social status, economic status, regions, and even generations?"

Our home is in Fukushima City, Yamaguchi area, about 70 kilometers from the Fukushima Dai-Ichi #1 PPT, is closed to Watari, Oonami, where radiation levels had been increased even in Fukushima City. Yamaguchi area is closed to Date City and Iitate Village in 20 minutes by car and where the fallout of radiation occurred. In 2013, Fukushima City decontaminated private residents' houses. Since decontamination costs millions of yens, by each house, thus it cannot be done by individuals, and was carried out by local governments, but even so, more than a year has passed since the nuclear accident.

Pollutant soil and mud containing radioactive materials from decontamination were put in 4 black bags (flexible-container bags) and buried in a corner of our house back garden site. The polluted soil that was initially said to be "taken out a few years later" is still buried as of 2021, and there is no place to take it with us. In Futaba Town, where the nuclear power plant is located, the townspeople cannot return, and the areas where Okuma Town and Namie Town can also return are limited.

Mr. Ichiro Moritaki, who was exposed to radiation, said that "Nuclear and mankind cannot coexist." However, in Fukushima Prefecture, the reality is that "mandatory situation on coexistence with Nuclear semipermanent". In other words, "endless damage" is continuing under radiation and nuke damage. Clearly, this negative history is a past path that must not be followed again. That's why it's not like being able to divide something, mark a milestone, or hit a period in the past decade. I think few people deny this assumption. In reality, however, there is the reality that the period is about to be struck by government policies.

2. State of Key Challenges Today 1 : Nuclear Reactor Situation

As "never forgetting the nuclear accident", on February 13, 2021, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.3 occurred off the coast of Fukushima Prefecture. This was regarded as the aftershock of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011. The underlying plate has not stopped moving and shaking us yet.

Nevertheless, when the earthquake occurred, I found that two seismometers were damaged, and that data on the 13th earthquake was not available. TEPCO did not promptly publicize such issues. At Units 1 and 3 of the Fukushima Dai-ichi NPPs, where water is constantly put cooling water to the reactors, water levels in the containment vessels have also gone down, and the situation remains unstable. The national government and electric power companies TEPCO have not been able to provide complete safety to people living in and around Fukushima Prefecture. Even now, my friend told me, "Every time an earthquake occurs, I worry about the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant before I worry about my home."

3. Key Challenges Today 2 :Health Damage

At the time of 2011, a thyroid test was begun for children who were generally 18 years old or younger. Thyroid cancer and its suspicion were found over 250 people, of whom over 200 had an operation. Among the

people I was covering, the majority of the citizens who had been with my interviewing complained that they wanted the inspection to continue. On the other hand, some experts have voiced that the examination should be discontinued. Others have also voiced that the examination will lead to the discovery of many patients and the removal of a "well-faced" cancer without cutting. Thus, there is a movement to reduce the examination by government side.

There is no place to present sufficient opinions and discussions, and there is no opportunities of deliberative discussions. The people's will to "inspect them more with long span" has been ignored.

3.Key Challenges Today3: Evacuation and Migration

Since the beginning of 2021, the number of people evacuated from Fukushima Prefecture to other areas was approximately 36,000 according to a report by Fukushima Prefecture. In fact, however, a survey conducted by Kyodo News from February to March 2021 revealed that the total number of people evacuated from municipalities to other areas totaled 67,000. The situation of evacuation is diverse for each and every one of us, and in the first place, there are many evacuations that cannot be counted based on administrative surveys and that cannot be ascertained of the actual situation.

Following the earthquake and nuclear accident on March 11, 2011, some people evacuated from Tokyo and other Tokyo metropolitan areas to the west or even evacuated to other countries in order to ensure safety. These people are not counted in statistics. However, it is the nuclear accident that will create such a wide-area evacuation.

Japan is a country with a low status of women. In Japan, compared to men and women, the average income is lower for women, and many of them work in non-regular employment or part-time jobs. There are many women who must quit their jobs due to pregnancy or childbirth. Therefore, their husbands stayed and continued to work in Fukushima even after the earthquake and nuke accidents, therefore their wives evacuated with their children outside of Fukushima Prefecture. The term "mother and child evacuation" was also occurred.

This is another form of evacuation as "wide-area evacuation".

Evacuating is an extremely important action to escape damage and survive. People who knew the history of the impact of the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the radioactive fallout of the A and H bombs tests conducted in the Pacific Ocean, our neighbor in Japan, such as the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Many people evacuated to escape the effects of radiation. Japan Peace Society, I am a member, called it "Global Hibakusha." We became the Global Hibakusha and hope the last one.

Some people in the wide-area evacuation have evacuated abroad. People who had evacuated from Miharu Town, Fukushima Prefecture to France, from Fukushima City to New Zealand, and from Fukushima City to the United States, I visited to have interview directly.

Ms. Michiko Kato, a mother who evacuated from Fukushima City to the U.S.

with her son, was found to have cancer in the U.S. and died there. I have heard from her both in the U.S. and in Japan, where I was temporarily returning to Japan, and I have been communicating with her via email for a long time, so I feel very lonely and sad. I will not forget her brave fight until she died. It was that abhorrent nuclear accident that suddenly disrupted the daily lives of many people who lived normally.

We have to consider about the violence of power generation fueled by fossil fuels such as nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons.

With enlightening of this, from ten years ago, the violence of nuclear power, which uses uranium as a fossil fuel, became apparent. I think that just facing up to the problems and the current situation will give you a good understanding of how valuable the many lives and daily lives that have been lost, and how big those lost things have been.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons entered into force in January this year. It was an event in which not only Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but many hibakusha from all over the world raised their voices and moved the world. However, unfortunately, Japan has not signed it.

The Government of Japan's stance is to minimize the number of evacuees and the reality of the damage, conceal them and hit a period on the reality of the disaster, and not hit a period on the nuclear power plant.

3. Key Challenges Today 4: Lost Words, Memories and Records

Life and Life were lost due to the nuclear accident. We also lost our relationships, our trust in and respect for each other, our health, our work, our money, and our natural environment without radioactivity. However, in the past decade, victims have been placed in an even more difficult situation.

There are people who moved into public housing that became evacuation houses in Tokyo, where they were evacuated, and became unemployed and financially difficult. Far from helping this person, Fukushima Prefecture sued him by saying, "Give away the public housing in the evacuation destination and go out," and furthermore, "Pay compensation for damages." I've been covering people who have suffered from thyroid cancer, and most of them are anonymous. I am in a situation where I can't express my damage or opinions by putting my face out in my real name. They are afraid of discrimination, disadvantage, and pressure from great power.

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Folklorist Mr. Norio Akasaka had held workshops with local people in the Aizu region after 3.11. At that time, a person who worked in the electric power industry confessed that "people from electric power companies except TEPCO and Kansai Electric Power were saying, 'I jealous that TEPCO and Kansai Electric Power Company have Nuke PPT colonies.'" In other words, outside of TEPCO's power supply area, Fukushima, which is generating power at the nuclear power plant Fukushima, is one Nuke PPT colony.

Now, we can see that Fukushima is undergoing new colonization. One is an immigrant colony. For example, many people have moved from the outside for decommissioning, decontamination, and

reconstruction work of nuclear power plants. In addition, through festival projects, the festival slave colony forcibly implants values and cultures that were originally not came from the local areas and makes them obey the event.

In July next month, the Tokyo Olympics will be held in Japan. In Japan, enthusiasm for sporting events and festival events is covering people and society as a whole, and the nuclear and COVID-19 disasters are about to be invisible. This Olympic Games is trying to build a legacy called the "Olympics for Reconstruction from the nuclear power plant disaster".

An Iwaki city council member and No- nuke activist, Mr. Kazuyoshi Sato, responded to my interview in 2018: "We have to ask ourselves why reconstruction is going to be a set with the Olympics. "There is a risk that the Olympics will become a convenient 'reset button' depending on the perpetrator."

In the shadow of the Olympic Games, it can be said that the "exploitative colonization" is still going on, in which took away the culture and language, records and history after the nuclear accident from Fukushima People, as well as the experience of the disaster was concealed, then finally erased.

Talking about the damage is said to be a hindrance to reconstruction, and in some cases, people are labeled as "harmful rumors that undermine reconstruction."

The ingenious "exploitative colonization" in which the victim is placed as if he/or she were a perpetrator exploited even a diverse space of speech, which cleverly incorporates new discrimination, slavery, and exploitation.

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In my coverage, I have obtained some remarkable results. This means that many people around the world are being inspired by the nuclear accident in Fukushima and the current situation and activities of the affected citizens, creating a "Global Hibakusha" line as well as a grassroots post-nuclear network.

During the past decade, four people from the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the lee of the nuclear test in the Pacific Ocean have been shown to Iitate Village, which has become a downwind area due to the Fukushima nuclear accident. They shed tears in a dialogue with the villagers saying, "The same thing has happened."

We visited people in the TMI nuclear accident area in the U.S. four times and covered their health damage. Inspired by the Fukushima nuclear accident, more and more people are once again working to escape from the

foot of their lives. Nuclear and nuclear power plants are on the same horizon.

Vietnam, the United Kingdom, Turkey, and Italy: Although the countries are different, there are people who stand side by side with citizens in Fukushima, empathize, and move toward denuclearization and de-nuclear power. As a human being living on the earth, I clearly see that there is a movement that is indeed building a public sphere towards an invisible but non-radioactive earth, acting as Global Hibakushas.

4. Key Challenges5: Will and solidarity of those who fought and are fighting

Finally, I would like to introduce the voices of two people from Fukushima.

One of them is Mr. Jotaro Wakamatsu, a poet from Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture, who died in April at the age of 85. One of his poem called "Hito no Akashi" ="Proof of Human" to appeal for the destruction of our daily lives and humanity caused by the nuclear accident.

Mr. Wakamatsu was the one of the testimonials who went into the nuclear site immediately after the completion of the Fukushima Dai-ichi NPS and realized the danger of the nuclear power plant. I interviewed Mr. Wakamatsu last December. Based on his experiences in World War II, he said, "We won't be believed and deceived, it's important to live thinking with that I won't be deceived."

I take it like his last will that Mr. Wakamatsu left to future generations. I would like to reaffirm this phrase that we should not be fooled by the myth of safety, such as that if an accident does not occur, the nuclear power plant will be safe, and the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi NPS has been settled.

Let me introduce another voice. Mr. Yasuhiro Abe is the manager of a movie theater called Fukushima Forum in Fukushima City. Mr. Abe is a husband who evacuated his wife and children to Kansai. "Abe said, "At the time of the nuclear accident, only Fukushima was lonely in this situation." Now at COVID-19, movie theater management is much harder than it was ten years ago, but spiritually its loneliness has been reduced. "The reason is that the world has the same experience and empathy with COVID-19." Difficulties and loneliness can be reduced if there are people who empathize and people who coexist with them. If there is someone who can fight together, it turns into courage. In other words, "solidarity of citizens based on empathy." For those of us living in the post-Fukushima era in the future, I think this "solidarity" will be a great force.

6. Conclusion

I would like to express the experience of people affected by the nuclear accident in Fukushima as "the people of Fukushima that exist all over the world," who feel like they are themselves. I would like to express my gratitude to those people. Thank you for all of the people to come and stay in the front line.

The local people of Fukushima said, "I don't want anyone in the world to have an experience like ours again."

When ICAN's Ms. Beatrice Finn, Rebecca's colleague visited Japan, after winning the Nobel Prize, she said: *"A new world can definitely be created by ourselves."*

In fact, from the environmental and human rights perspectives, younger generations have begun grassroots activities aimed at anti-nuclear and non-nuclear power generation in Japan as well.

The damage caused by the nuclear accident in Fukushima in 2011 will not disappear in this milestone year of 10 years in 2021. And there're many things I can do now.

We are solidarity across borders, intended for the next new era. To move forward, we must close the door behind you. It is time to close the old 'Nuke Door' behind us quickly and open the door of new frontier in front of us. We would like to work in solidarity with the people around the world to make it the starting and ending point of the painful human history and mission that took place to stop the nuclear power plant, nuclear weapons, and nuclear violence.

If the dawn of the nuclear century began from the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. But, let's make closing the dark door and rocked in Fukushima nuke accident. We have the power and the responsibility to realize it. Let's face squarely to the damage in Fukushima and be in solidarity with the victims and Global Hibakusha. Make public sphere wider with great diversity of peace.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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