

International Forum “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas”

November 25 – 27, 2016

[Report]



Hirono town, Fukushima Prefecture

Organized by : Planning and Organization Committee of the International Forum

Co-organized by : Isotope Science Center, the University of Tokyo / Fukushima University
Higashi Nippon International University / Kumamoto Gakuen University
National Institute of Technology, Fukushima College

Sponsored by : Embassy of Canada to Japan / Embassy of France to Japan / Fukushima Prefecture
Iwaki City / Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction Agency



CONTENTS

■ Introduction	01
■ Message from “Disaster Affected Areas & Hirono”	02
■ Program	04
■ Opening Ceremony	05
■ Sessions	11



Introduction

Under the theme of “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas,” an international forum was held from Friday, November 25 to Sunday, November 27, 2016. This international forum was organized based on the “Message from Hirono” adopted at the international forum “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas and Hirono”—Towards “Happy Return and Reconstruction”—From “Early Return” to “Happy Return” held in September 2015. The aim of the forum was to discuss the reconstruction of the entire Fukushima Prefecture, a region affected by the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, with various people concerned at one of the affected areas, since we believe that consensus about disaster issues should be formed involving a wide range of areas.

Advancing the efforts we made last year, we established the Planning and Organization Committee of the International Forum, comprising those concerned in Hirono Town as well as those interested in the Futaba district and experts working in the disaster-affected areas. Thorough consideration was given by the committee to discussing various issues in the affected areas at the forum.

During the forum, diverse issues in the Futaba district and other affected areas were discussed in 17 sessions with overseas guests.

On the final day of the forum, a new message was adopted by a consensus of the participants.

<http://www.town.hirono.fukushima.jp/kikaku/kokusaiforam.html>



Message from the International Forum

“Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas”

A message was issued from “Disaster Affected Areas & Hirono” in September 2015 under the theme of “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas.” Acting upon this message, an international forum was held this time in order to hold dialogues on the diverse issues facing the disaster affected areas. This forum was realized by expanding upon the efforts from the previous fiscal year, with the establishment of the Planning and Organization Committee comprised of members not only from Hirono Town, but also residents from the Futaba area as well as experts working in the disaster affected areas. Repeated discussions were held by these members to make this forum happen.

For the first time at this forum, experts from outside of Japan hosted a session, which had great significance. We will work to make sure that such sessions are also held at our future forums.

After a succession of discussions on important themes held at 17 sessions between November 25 and 27, we gained the following lessons on achieving recovery of the disaster affected areas.

1) Now that five years and eight months have passed since the disaster, areas that had been separated by the difference in the degree of their disaster level are now beginning to find common issues as they strive to resolve their different problems. In this situation, special mentioning deserves to be given to an initiative held by a gathering of mid-level officials from the eight towns of the Futaba region, with the results being put together in a report. In order to promote such efforts even further, we hope to see the implementation of a broad range of activities, such as creating opportunities for residents to have dialogues with the government without having them expect the government to take action for them implicitly.

2) In regional areas where recovery efforts are being advanced, new regional communities are beginning to materialize, such as with the start of constructions work on public restoration housing. In this situation, each and every resident is required to think and act as a person concerned on what they want for their local community. As we face continuous changes to our local communities, we hope to advance initiatives that bring mutual cooperation amongst regional activities in order to bring back the good things about the local community that had existed from before, and to develop it even further.

3) As we can see from the Kumamoto Earthquake that occurred in April of this year, a number of disaster affected areas have sprung up, even by looking just at this year alone. Although there are differences, there are also many things that the different disaster affected areas share in common. However, not enough information is being shared amongst the disaster affected areas. Also, the same situation is occurring between communities within the same disaster affected area. In order to solve these issues, we need to utilize the perspectives on disaster affected areas by those outside of Japan, and work toward resolving the various issues by having residents of the disaster affected areas become aware of what is needed and promoting the practice of information sharing.

4) The level of interest in the disaster affected area of Fukushima is waning, both in and outside of Japan, with some media giving reports on Fukushima that are contrary to reality. From now on, it is vital that we send out accurate information in multiple languages, in a sustainable and active manner. We will not just simply get rid of the biased image being spread by the media, but obtain a solid grasp of the fact that such images have become widespread. Based on that, we will make the disaster affected area into a place that proposes and implements new ideologies for the world to take note of, such as energy strategies and regional community revitalization model.

5) There are diverse ways in how people see the disaster affected areas. When we group the people outside of Japan as one, within that group, we see diverse countries and regions, with different views on the disas-

ter affected areas based on the standpoint of their own country. Such views will likely change dramatically if they have the opportunity to actually visit the disaster affected areas and come in touch with the realities there. Moreover, such perspectives from outside of the disaster affected area may bring new realizations about the disaster affected area to its residents.

Thus, we will work to send out information in foreign languages and increase the opportunities for people from overseas to visit the disaster affected areas, while also implementing initiatives in partnership with special guide interpreters for Fukushima.

6) Physical recovery such as infrastructure development is crucial, but the issue of psychological recovery was brought up for the first time at this forum. There, we realized for the first time of the importance that festivals play in raising people’s spirits. In the future, we would like to work toward the recovery of the regional festivals, with participation by the local residents.

From the above lessons, we learned of the importance of exchanging viewpoints on the disaster affected areas, including the views held by people outside of Japan, and the importance of sending out appropriate information, as we proceed with our efforts themed to “thinking from disaster affected areas.” We believe it is of essential importance to have different regions work together in handling issues that the different disaster affected areas had hitherto been performing mainly on their own efforts.

November 27, 2016
International Forum “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas”
Forum participants



PROGRAM

NOVEMBER
25TH
[FRI]

- Opening Ceremony
- Opening session: Fukushima in the World [Session No.9](#)
- Play by high school students [Session No.2](#)
- Two affected areas
 - Kumamoto and Fukushima - [Session No.11](#)
- The honest opinions that experts from abroad heard through individual interviews, aimed at helping residents guide themselves towards the future [Session No.16](#)
- Thinking about coexistence with residents in public restoration housing [Session No.13](#)
- Association for the Future of the Futaba District [Session No.7](#)
- Introduction of Futaba Future School [Session No.17](#)
- Tea Ceremony

NOVEMBER
26TH
[SAT]

- Dialogue between local residents and experts after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident
 - What have we learned? - [Session No.8](#)
- Fukushima seen from the perspective of foreigners
 - Let's think about Fukushima Prefecture while eating snacks! - [Session No.15](#)
- "Presented to the Hometown in 30 Years' Time"
Report on the visit to the Republic of Belarus by high school students from the Hamadori area in Fukushima Prefecture [Session No.12](#)
- How should we connect Fukushima Prefecture with the world?
 - The role of people who send out information - [Session No.5](#)
- Thinking about nursing children from disaster affected areas
 - Philosophy Café @ Hirono- [Session No.3](#)
- Passing down hope to future generations, coping with the long-term disaster aftermath [Session No.14](#)

NOVEMBER
27TH
[SUN]

- Thinking about a succession of traditional events to foster mental restoration [Session No.10](#)
- Report on the overseas training by junior high school students from Hirono Town
 - Cross-cultural communication program in Canada - [Session No.1](#)
- Restoration of farmland and the environment in the Futaba District
 - Thinking about community renovation through food and agriculture - [Session No.6](#)
- Living in Hirono Town and radiation [Session No.4](#)
- Ceremony (Rice Cake Making)
- Closing Plenary

OPENING CEREMONY

- ◎**Date/Time:** Friday, November 25, 2016, 13:00-13:30
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Gymnasium (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**MC:** Ms. Kanako Tsukano (Reconstruction Planning Division, Hirono Town Office)
- ◎**Guests:**
 - Mr. Yosuke Takagi, State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
 - Mr. Tamotsu Baba, Chair of Futaba District Town and Village Assemblies, and Mayor of Namie Town
 - Mr. Masanori Kuroda, Chair of Hirono Town Assembly
 - Ms. Kenza Robinson, The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
 - Mr. Oswald Chanda, African Development Bank
 - Mr. Jean-Christophe Gariel, Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety, France
- ◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 180

1 | Opening Declaration of the International Forum



Mr. Akira Honda
Vice Mayor of Hirono Town

“I hereby declare the opening of the International Forum “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas” to be held for three days starting today, from November 25 to 27, 2017.

2 | Organizer’s Address



Mr. Satoshi Endo,
Mayor of Hirono Town
(Representative of the Planning and Organization Committee of the International Forum)

This year marks the sixth year since all residents of Hirono Town were forced to evacuate to outside the town following the Great East Japan Earthquake and the nuclear accident on March 11, 2011.

Under the slogan of “Protect Life, Engage People, Create the Future,” we are striving hard to restore the situation in Hirono to how it was before the disaster, so that residents can return to their hometown to reestablish their normal lives as soon as possible.

“Protect Life” means not only enhancing healthcare, public health and welfare services, but also restoring the natural environment and spreading knowledge about radiation. “Engage People” means creating a system that allows residents and other interested parties to participate in “hometown” development and providing places for interaction. “Create the Future” refers to developing our town’s unique educational environment and promoting active cross-cultural interaction.

To create an environment that will encourage evacuated residents to return to the town, we will vigorously implement these measures through multi-sector collaboration involving industry, academia, government, finance, labor and the media.

This year marks the third time that the International Forum has been held. Aiming to accelerate the reconstruction of not only Hirono Town, but also the entire Fukushima, this year's forum was organized by the Planning and Organization Committee, comprised of Hirono residents and experts working in the disaster-affected areas, in cooperation with officials from the eight municipalities in Futaba District, the University of Tokyo, Hosei University, Higashi Nippon International University, Fukushima University, Futaba Miyagi Gakuin Senior High School, NPOs, the Reconstruction Agency, and Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction Agency.

I hope this forum will serve as a tool that binds the eight municipalities of Futaba District together and contributes to the creation of a concrete vision for regional revitalization, which will guide our efforts to help residents of the region, including those of the evacuation instruction zones, return to their homes and normal lives as soon as possible and on a sustainable basis.

3 | Guests' Addresses



Mr. Yosuke Takagi

State Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

On the occasion of the opening of the International Forum, I would like to pay tribute to the dedicated efforts made by Mayor Endo and all other persons concerned.

Since relocating its office back to the town in March 2012, Hirono Town government has vigorously promoted reconstruction efforts.

Specifically, in addition to opening Futaba Future High School in April 2015, the town opened new facilities in March 2016 to improve the living environment—the “Hirono Future Office” building built on the east side of Hirono Station, which is expected to serve as a center for reconstruction of the town, and the “Hirono Terrace” mall, which has been constructed in front of the town office, as a daily shopping area for returned residents.

Over 80 percent of Hirono residents are expected to return to the town by April 2017, and part of the J-Village will be reopened in 2018. I feel that reconstruction is progressing steadily here in Hirono.

However, the pace of reconstruction varies widely among municipalities. In some municipalities like Hirono Town, the return of residents is well underway, while in other municipalities, environmental improvement work is being carried out in preparation for the lifting of the evacuation order.

We at the national government are well aware that the challenges and issues faced by each municipality vary widely. All the ministries and agencies concerned will work as a single team to help resolve problems, according to individual stages of reconstruction.

I have heard that this forum will, in a number of sessions, review various challenges faced by the disaster-affected areas, including initial response and recovery work, and measures for reputational damage and reconstruction efforts, and will also discuss measures to address key issues including timely and accurate information dissemination. I would like to thank Hirono Town for taking the lead in addressing these difficult issues facing the entire disaster-affected area.

I hope this forum will develop into a meaningful initiative encompassing the entire Futaba region. I also hope that this forum will help disseminate to the world the reconstruction efforts being undertaken by the entire disaster-affected area and the current state of reconstruction of Fukushima.

In closing, allow me to make a request to the international experts and the representatives of various embassies, who are present here today. I would like to ask you to communicate the current status of Fukushima and the contents of the discussions to people in your country and offer some advice from your own perspective on future reconstruction efforts.



Mr. Tamotsu Baba

Chair of Futaba District Town and Village Assemblies, and Mayor of Namie Town

On behalf of the Futaba District Town and Village Assemblies, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations on the holding of the third International Forum “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas.”

It has been five years and eight months since the Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident. However, many residents of Futaba District are still in evacuation status and are forced to live in unfamiliar

places in or outside Fukushima Prefecture.

In some municipalities in Futaba District, including Hirono, recovery and reconstruction, and the return of residents, are progressing slowly but steadily.

The other day, the evacuation order was lifted in Katsurao Village, and the village is now working on various issues toward full-fledged recovery and reconstruction. However, there is a limit to what a town or village can do alone. Katsurao needs cooperation from other municipalities, including Hirono Town. I encourage all the eight municipalities in Futaba District to work in collaboration toward reconstruction.

With a strong determination to restore our “hometown Futaba” to its state before the disaster, i.e., a place filled with beautiful nature and smiling faces of all ages—from children to the elderly—the eight municipalities of Futaba will work together, in close cooperation with prefectural and national governments, to create a region where residents can have hopes and dreams for the future. We sincerely ask for your continued understanding and support.

I would like to end my address by extending my heartfelt wishes for the great success of this forum and the further prosperity of Hirono Town, as well as the happiness and good health of all of you present here today.



Mr. Masanori Kuroda

Chair of Hirono Town Assembly

On behalf of the Hirono Town Assembly, I would like to say a few words of welcome to you all.

Let me first thank all those concerned who have provided support and cooperation in making this forum possible.

The International Forum held in September last year was truly stimulating and meaningful. Each individual participant’s strong interest in and passion for Hirono

Town made me feel very encouraged.

I hope that this year’s forum will also generate active discussions toward “happy return and reconstruction.”

The Town Assembly is working hand in hand with the administration so that the town can be reconstructed and revitalized as soon as possible.

I hope that all of the experts who have joined this forum from Japan and abroad will lend us their wisdom to the reconstruction and revitalization of our town.

In closing, I would like to thank all those who have taken time out of their busy schedules to participate in this forum. I hope that this forum will produce an outcome that is meaningful not only for the reconstruction of Hirono, but also for all of the affected areas of the nuclear accident.

4 | Invited International Experts' Addresses

Ms. Kenza Robinson

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs



People of Hirono Town and Japanese friends, thank you for your warm welcome. It is a great honor for me to be invited to such an event.

During the past decade, water-related disasters have not only struck more frequently, but have also been more severe, causing serious damage. These disasters have hampered sustainable development, as a result causing political, social and economic upheaval in many countries.

In fact, water-related disasters, such as floods, droughts, and tsunamis, account for 90% of all disasters in terms of the number of people affected. According to the United Nation's Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015, economic losses from disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, tsunamis and cyclones, in the United States are now reaching an average of \$250 billion to \$300 billion annually.

Earthquakes, floods, tsunamis and droughts...these are disasters that can befall anybody indiscriminately. The issue of comprehensive resilience to disasters must be tackled together with those involved in each type of disaster. Nobody can solve such problems alone.

However, we tend to work in a vertically segmented organization, and make piecemeal efforts. We must stop these. We must work as a global community and plug the gaps.

At the same time, it is necessary to always think of the worst scenario and invest in disaster risk reduction. Should a disaster occur, it is of course necessary to provide humanitarian assistance to affected people and take measures to minimize damage from the disaster.

You are the leaders of Hirono Town. This area has a great potential to become a role model for recovery and reconstruction from a disaster. The Futaba region is at the vanguard of reconstruction, not only in terms of financial investment, but also in the level of effort and energy, and future vision. I think that the knowledge and information gained here should be shared with public organizations, private companies, experts and citizens.

The concept of shared responsibility is one of the important elements of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, adopted at the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Long-term sustainable development is possible through the active involvement of international organizations such as the United Nations, local communities, scholars and other stakeholders.

I sincerely hope that this forum will enable fruitful discussions and exchange of views and ideas, leading to the acquisition of new knowledge and insights.

I look forward to working in cooperation with you, the leading providers of disaster risk management of Japan, in the future.

Mr. Oswald Chanda

African Development Bank

What I expect of this forum is to learn from people who have experienced such a tragic disaster how they have overcome and responded to challenges or hardships they have faced.

To put it in an extreme way, if we have money, we can achieve physical reconstruction. However, emotional rehabilitation or recovery is very difficult. I would like to learn first-hand from you, who have experienced that recovery process, and communicate the experience of Fukushima to the world. In other words, I want to act as your ambassador.

People around the world have various questions about Fukushima, but a lot of false information is circulating.

It is necessary to deliver accurate information. In this sense, I would like to be your ambassador in Africa. Of course, there are language problems and various restrictions. But I wish to build a network with you, get to know you better, gain information from you, and learn how you have healed yourselves emotionally and mentally.

The African continent is also prone to various natural disasters. To better cope with natural disasters, I want to learn what systems you have established for the future.

I hope that this forum will be a place of learning, networking and building relationships.



Mr. Jean-Christophe Gariel

Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety, France

First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the organizer and people of Hirono Town for inviting me to this forum. I would also like to thank you for allowing me to take charge of a session that will consider the nuclear accident of Fukushima from the perspective of France.

The Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN) is a research institute located in France, which conducts evaluation of radiation and nuclear risks.

One of the missions of IRSN is to prepare for and respond to possible nuclear disasters. In France, 75% of electricity is produced by nuclear power plants. At present, 58 nuclear reactors are in operation. The possibility of a nuclear accident might be low, but France is a country that must prepare thoroughly for a nuclear disaster.

On March 12, 2011, I was watching explosions of the reactor buildings of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant on TV in real time. I was extremely shocked. That was because I was made acutely aware that an accident can happen no matter how low the possibility.

Speaking from my standpoint, preparation for a nuclear disaster is not a mere theoretical exercise. It is also not something that only experts should be involved in. Furthermore, it is not an issue limited to science or technology. It is an issue that human beings have to deal with. Nuclear disasters have an impact on people, especially local residents.

I wish to support you from the bottom of my heart. You faced the outcome of a major nuclear disaster and



have had a very difficult time over the last five years. And you are making earnest efforts toward recovery and reconstruction.

Since the disaster, I have visited the site some 15 times. I was deeply impressed that the local society is working hard to decontaminate the radiation-contaminated area. I think you are already experts on nuclear disasters.

The French people are aware that a nuclear disaster can happen in theory. There is a possibility, though it is very low, that a nuclear disaster may occur.

Japanese people have learned various things from the disaster and accident. International exchange is therefore extremely important. Because a major industrial accident like the one that occurred here in Fukushima can happen anywhere in the world.

I firmly believe that this three-day forum will bring about a fruitful and meaningful outcome for the entire world.

INVITED INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

- (1) Dr. Syafruddin Karimi (Director, Center for Economic Research and Institutional Development, Andalas University, Indonesia)
- (2) Dr. Jagath Manatunge (Senior Lecturer, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka)
- (3) Dr. LeHuu Ti (Visiting Professor, University of Da Nang, Vietnam)
- (4) Mr. Oswald Chanda (Manager, African Development Bank, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)
- (5) Mr. Hikaru Shoji (African Development Bank, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)
- (6) Ms. Kenza Robinson (Senior Advisor, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [UNDESA], Morocco)

| OPENING SESSION

FUKUSHIMA IN THE WORLD

◎**Date/Time:** Friday, November 25, 2016, 13:30–15:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (main conference room, training room 1), Hirono Town Gymnasium (2nd floor meeting room)

◎**Coordinators, Panelists, Lecturers, etc.:**

Coordinator

Mr. William McMichael (Assistant Professor, Fukushima University)

Panelists

Mr. Pierrefitte Randheli (Acting Counsellor, French Embassy in Japan)

Ms. Monika Sommer (Counsellor, German Embassy in Japan)

Mr. Shoji (African Development Bank)

Dr. LeHuu Ti (Visiting Professor, University of Da Nang, Vietnam)

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 50

◎**Overview**

1. Self-introduction of presenters
2. Introduction (McMichael)
3. Presentations (French Embassy German Embassy University of Da Nang African Development Bank)
4. Discussion

| **1 Closing (summary)**

All presenters agreed (1) that public interest in Fukushima is diminishing in their country, and (2) that the media coverage of Fukushima in their country concerns either the nuclear power plant accident or energy issues. An opinion was expressed that it is important to continue disseminating up-to-date information about Fukushima in English to the world while cooperating with journalists of major media outlets, and that it is also important for Hirono Town and Futaba District to establish a system that enables them to make counter-arguments under the leadership of town mayors, etc. when a false rumor arises.

As a suggestion for the future direction of Fukushima, several panelists commented as follows: The name of Fukushima has already become well-known worldwide as a place contaminated with radiation, so even if Fukushima continues to implement branding and PR strategies, it will be difficult to eradicate such an image. Instead of trying to eradicate the once-established image, it is important to accept it and communicate to the world “how Fukushima has changed by having experienced that disaster,” by actively proposing and implementing new concepts, new energy strategies and a new regional revitalization model.



A recommendation was made to spread a new image of Fukushima as a “new world cultural heritage” or an “iconic or symbolic existence for the new era,” in a phased manner—from the individual level to the regional level, then to the national level and to the global level—through strong leadership and international cooperation.

Other major outcomes

It has become clear that there are common issues regarding media coverage of Fukushima in all countries from which the panelists came. This finding is helpful in planning our future information dissemination activities.

A network has been established between embassies and local practitioners. We agreed with the Public Relations Division of the French Embassy to meet in Tokyo next month to discuss the use of the Embassy's Twitter account, which boasts over 10,000 followers.

Points for reconsideration

Due to time restrictions, a lack of understanding among participants, and occasional digressions into metaphysical topics, we could not engage in sufficient discussion. I hope that the organizer will allocate adequate time for our session so that we can discuss the pertinent matters deeply while also taking breaks.



PLAY BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

◎**Date/Time:** Friday, November 25, 2016, 15:15–15:30

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (main conference room)

◎**Coordinators, Panelists, Lecturers, etc.:**

Mr. Tsushima (teacher at Futaba Future High School)

Number of participants: Approx. 200

◎**Overview**

- A play set in the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
- A play set in Tomioka Public Works and Construction Office

1 | Closing (summary)

Outcome of the session

In this session, high school students acted out plays dealing with issues related to the reconstruction of the disaster-affected areas. This session provided an opportunity for participants to share the issues and consider what efforts should be made to build a better community toward the future.

Future directions

We hope to present not only short plays created in class, but also full-length plays created by the drama club members, to help stimulate deeper discussions.



TWO AFFECTED AREAS

KUMAMOTO AND FUKUSHIMA

◎**Date/Time:** Friday, November 25, 2016, 15:30–17:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (main conference room, training room 1), Hirono Town Gymnasium (2nd floor meeting room)

◎**Panelists (in the order of presentation):**

Mr. Harada (Student, Kumamoto Gakuen University)

Ms. Nemoto (Resident of Hirono Town)

Mr. Komatsu (Hirono Town Office)

◎**Convener:** Dr. Takagi (Associate Professor, Kumamoto Gakuen University)

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 60

1 | Overview

Objectives: The 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake—despite having a smaller scale of damage than the Great East Japan Earthquake—inflicted severe damage over a wide area from Kumamoto Prefecture to Oita Prefecture. Recovery and reconstruction efforts have been continuing in the affected areas. In the meantime, similar problems to those encountered in Fukushima following the Great East Japan Earthquake (socially disadvantaged people, breakup/reconstruction of the community, etc.) have also come to the surface in Kumamoto. Under these circumstances, Kumamoto wishes to draw on the experience of Fukushima.

Fukushima and Kumamoto have in common the fact that they have been hit by a large earthquake. This session aims to explore the possibility of cooperation between the two disaster-affected areas, i.e. how these areas can cooperate with each other, based on reports from the panelists.



1.Part 1: Objectives of the session and outline of the Kumamoto Earthquake

The convener explained the objectives of the session and gave an outline of the Kumamoto Earthquake. He also explained the commonalities and individualities of the disasters in Fukushima and Kumamoto, and presented the direction of this panel discussion.

2.Part 2: Report from the panelists

- Mr. Harada (student, Kumamoto Gakuen University): Reported about café (salon) activities that have been conducted in Mashiki-machi following the earthquake, “Ohisama Café,” and issues encountered in the course of such activities.
- Ms. Nemoto (resident of Hirono Town): Reported on what had happened from evacuation to returning to the town, from a woman’s perspective. She also talked about her experience of volunteer activities, in which she had engaged from before the earthquake. She said that she was accepted and was able to resume her volunteer work after returning to the town.
- Mr. Komatsu (Hirono Town Office): Reported about his experiences as a local government employee, focusing on the support provided to affected people during the early phases after the disaster and changes in support over time. He also expressed his wish to share his own experience with employees of the disaster-affected municipalities.

3.Part 3: Discussion

- Some opinions were presented on the self-reliance of the evacuees. A discussion took place in response to Mr. Harada’s

report about Ohisama Café to the effect that they had started charging for drinks (10 yen per cup) after moving the venue from the evacuation shelter to the temporary housing. Following the discussion, an opinion was stated that self-preparation of meals at evacuation shelters would lead to the independence of the evacuees.

- A panelist offered advice about volunteer activities. To ensure that volunteer activities continue to be conducted, it is important to create an environment where anyone who wants to do volunteer work can do so at any time.
- Issues concerning temporary housing were discussed. A panelist pointed out that the “peculiar” living environment of the temporary housing might lead to health problems. Another panelist argued that since temporary housing units are not designed to accommodate large families, there are families who are forced to live separately, and stressed the need to provide more psychological care.
- A question was raised asking what “reconstruction” was. One of the panelists answered, “The houses are lit up. Children are playing outside. When I get out in the neighborhood, I see the neighbors. And I feel, ‘I am really glad I’ve returned.’ I think that’s reconstruction.”
- An opinion was expressed about interaction between municipal government employees in Fukushima and Kumamoto. Since Hirono Town is still receiving support, it is difficult to dispatch its employees to other disaster-affected municipalities. However, Hirono Town employees think if the occasion is offered, they want to share their experiences with employees of other disaster-affected municipalities. The convener replied that he will make efforts to create opportunities for interaction between the two disaster-affected areas.

2 | Closing (summary)

In this session, the panelists from Hirono Town, which had been hit by a major earthquake before Kumamoto, expressed their hopes to support Kumamoto in some form. Also, their strong determination to convey Hirono Town’s experience to other disaster-affected areas including Kumamoto was felt in their comments to Mr. Harada, who has been conducting volunteer activities in Kumamoto.

Although five years have passed since the disaster, Hirono Town still receives support from other municipalities. The people of Hirono Town feel frustrated with the present situation in which they cannot provide direct support to other disaster-affected areas.

The convener, who knows both disaster-hit areas, promised to approach the relevant organizations to create opportunities for interaction between Hirono and Kumamoto, so as to convey the thoughts of the people of Hirono Town to disaster-hit areas in Kumamoto.



THE HONEST OPINIONS THAT EXPERTS FROM ABOARD HEARD THROUGH INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS, AIMED AT HELPING RESIDENTS GUIDE THEMSELVES TOWARDS THE FUTURE

◎**Date/Time:** Friday, November 25, 2016, 16:00 (30 minutes later than scheduled)–17:35

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (training room 1)

◎**Convener:** Dr. Nakayama (Professor, The University of Tokyo)

◎**Panelists:**

Dr. Syafruddin Karimi (Director, Center for Economic Research and Institutional Development, Andalas University, Indonesia)

Dr. Jagath Manatunge (Senior Lecturer, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka)

Mr. Tamura (Manager of the Temporary Housing)

Mr. Asada (Environment and Disaster Prevention Division, Hirono Town)

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 30

1 | Overview

1.Part 1: Report from the convener

The convener explained the background to the planning and holding of the 17th session of the previous year's International Forum "Stepping out toward the future," and reported the knowledge gained from the session.

2.Part 2: Panel Discussion, Workshop, Presentation

In the panel discussion, four panelists gave presentations. Dr. Karimi and Dr. Manatunge shared their impressions and knowledge gained from interviews with residents of the temporary housing. Mr. Tamura talked about his impressions gained through his daily interaction with residents, and Mr. Asada summarized his impressions as an employee of Hirono Town.

3.Part 3: Q&A

A Q&A session was held between general participants (five people) and panelists. A question was raised about the perception gap between researchers and the temporary housing manager. There was a discussion on whether it was appropriate to judge the convenience of life after returning to Hirono, based on that in temporary housing. There was a suggestion that permanent housing should comprise one-story terraced houses to ensure the same level of interaction among residents.

2 | Closing (summary)

Due to the delayed start of the session, there was no time left for the convener to provide a summary. The convener made the following suggestions in his presentation: 1) When planning and implementing a plan to promote the return of residents to the town, it is important to recognize that the societies in the region and the attitudes of the affected people have changed since the disaster; 2) It is necessary to build an assembly hall and provide a means of access to the hall, to help residents lead an enjoyable life after returning to the town as they do in temporary housing; 3) What the town can and cannot do should be made clear, and an informal platform should be established for the town government to listen to the opinions of the residents without being implicitly obliged to take measures. Since no objections were raised by the participants, it is understood that the participants agree with these suggestions.



THINKING ABOUT COEXISTENCE WITH RESIDENTS IN PUBLIC RESTORATION HOUSING

◎**Date/Time:** Friday, November 25, 2016, 15:40–17:30

◎**Location:** 2nd floor meeting room, Hirono Town Gymnasium

◎**Facilitator:** Dr. Fukusaku, Vice-Principal of Higashi Nippon International University

◎**Panelist:**(1) Mr. Endo, Chairman of the Shimokajiro Housing Complex Council;

(2) Mr. Owada, Director of the Hirono Town Social Welfare Council Secretariat;

(3) Mr. Nemoto, resident of Hirono Town;

(4) Mr. Takanashi, Iwaki Council to Support the Victims of 3.11 Disaster

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 15

1 Summary

1. Part 1: Report (Mr. Takanashi)

- (1) Current situation of public restoration housing / Summary of public restoration housing scheduled to be constructed in Hirono Town
- (2) Initiatives for coexistence in public restoration housing: Activities by members providing community support

2. Part 2: Panel discussion

- (1) Introduction to the problems
- (2) Self introductions, situation before and after the disaster, current situation
- (3) Problems regarding lifestyles and activities

Current situation and problems regarding life in public restoration housing (Mr. Endo)

Current situation and problems regarding assistance provided by Hirono Town (Mr. Owada)

Current situation and future prospects of Hirono Town (Mr. Nemoto)

(4) Regarding the public restoration housing of Hirono Town (expected problems), etc. (Mr. Takanashi)

(5) Q&A



2 Closing (summary)

- There is a high aging ratio among the residents in public restoration housing → Operation of the local community council, future abilities with self-help
 - Importance of time and life cycle = Increase of people purchasing land (= renouncing return to homeland)
- Issues concerning exchange with local communities (differences from disaster public housing)
 - There is a need for a framework that would overcome the obstacles and differences that exist between governments and local communities.
- The lifestyle infrastructure of Hirono Town (retail, medical, welfare, etc.) has nearly returned to the level before the disaster.
 - Residents have high concerns due to workers, etc., and there is a feeling that the infrastructure is not developed from the perspective of the residents.
 - It is difficult to return home when you become used to life in a different area = There is a need for incentives to return to Futaba.
- Expectations toward the first public restoration housing in Futaba, “atmosphere of Futaba = identity of Futaba”
 - The policies of the local government have not been determined. = There is a major problem regarding the certificate of residence.
 - “Residents” exist in a cross-sectional manner throughout the region = Requires a grand design and system for the region encompassing a broad area.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE FUTABA DISTRICT

◎Date/Time: Friday, November 25, 2016, 13:30–17:00

◎Location: Naraha Town Office Large Meeting Room

◎Coordinator:

Mr. Shimazaki, Project Specialist, Soso Area Support Satellite, Fukushima University Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization

◎Number of participants: 17

1 | Summary

①Current situation and the future of Naraha Town 13:30–14:30

AFTER Q&A

→ (Words from Manager Igari, Disaster Recovery Promotion Group)

Ever since March 11, Naraha has been faced with issues that the town will have to deal with indefinitely.

This could happen to any town. If we share these issues

and create better solutions, we can achieve Futaba's recovery!

Thus, it is very important for the employees of the eight town offices work together, and our efforts will definitely be of use in the future!

②Thinking about Futaba's tomorrow 14:35–16:45

(basically in collaborative partnership between the private and public sectors, and with cooperation among the local government bodies)

----- Facilitator: Mr. Hirayama, Representative of the Futaba Future Meeting

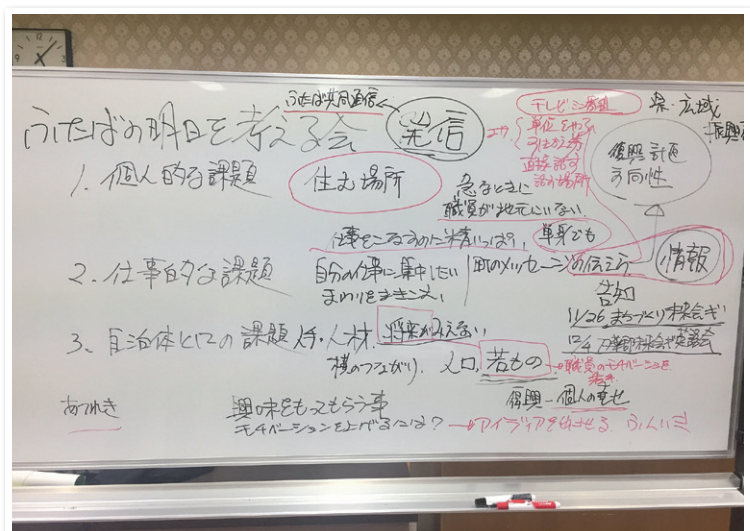
Discussion held in groups of three or four people.

A summary is shown in the follow page.

What is most important is to communicate local information from Futaba out into the broader world.

By doing so, we will help achieve the recovery of not only the areas within Futaba, but also the entire Fukushima Prefecture.

Among the ideas given on methods for sending out such information, we agreed to disseminate information via television. We will take concrete measures to advance such initiatives by having town offices work together over a broad area.



INTRODUCTION FUTABA FUTURE SCHOOL

◎**Date/Time:** Friday, November 25, 2016, 17:30–18:15

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (main conference room, training room 1)
Hirono Town Gymnasium (2nd floor meeting room)

◎**Presenters:**

Mr. Tanno, Principal, Fukushima Prefectural Futaba Future High School

Mr. Funayama, Assistant Manager and Chief Researcher, Facilities and Assets Group, Finance Section,
Prefectural Education Agency

Two students of the Fukushima Prefectural Futaba Future High School

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 40

1 | Summary

Realize far-reaching communication of information sent out from Futaba Future High School, such as concerning the school, its building and design, and the thoughts of the students toward the school, with the aim of becoming a Futaba Future School that exists together with the local community.

- 1 Introduction of the school (Principal of the Fukushima Prefectural Futaba Future High School)
- 2 Summary of the design of the school building (Facilities and Assets Group, Finance Section, Prefectural Education Agency)
- 3 Thoughts of the students (two students of the Fukushima Prefectural Futaba Future High School)
- 4 Q&A



DIALOGUE BETWEEN LOCAL RESIDENTS AND EXPERTS AFTER THE FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ACCIDENT

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

©**Date/Time:** Saturday, November 26, 2016, 10:00–12:00

©**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center, main conference room

©**Coordinators, Panelists, Lecturers, etc.:**

Mr. Jean-Cristophe Gariel (IRSN [Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety, France])

Mr. Francois Besnus (IRSN [Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety, France])

Ms. Ando (Ethos in Fukushima)

Ms. Momma

©**Number of participants:** Approx. 50

1 | Summary

Presentation: In four parts

1. Introduction of the Web Dock, and a presentation mainly comprised of a few video excerpts

The points that were focused in particular were “the radiation standard values of residents” and “how to live with children on contaminated land.”

2. Experience at Suetsugi. Ms. Ando of Ethos Iwaki talked about what she had learned from her experience at the NGO Ethos in Fukushima.

In particular, she gave a presentation on how the residents of Suetsugi, who are close to Hirono, responded to the issues that they faced.

3. Talk on the experience of returning to Fukushima. Presentations were given on what is considered important by specialized institutions like IRSN on the return of residents after the Fukushima nuclear power plant incident, and on problems that have arisen in Europe related to measures taken after a disaster.

4. Q&A



FUKUSHIMA SEEN FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FOREIGNERS

LET’S THINK ABOUT FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE WHILE EATING SNACKS!

◎**Date/Time:** Saturday, November 26, 2016, 12:00–13:30

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (training room 1)

◎**Presenters:**

Nicholas Evans (JET Program, Hirono Middle School, Hirono Town Board of Education)

Daniel Rodriguez (JET Program, Futaba Future School)

Merran Eby (JET Program, Yumoto Daiichi Middle School, Iwaki City Board of Education)

Tananaugh Espinoza (JET Program, Yumoto Daiichi Elementary School, Iwaki City Board of Education)

Gretchen Ekstrand (Private nursing school, Kids Garden Iwaki)

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 40

1 Summary

1. Part 1: Individual presentations by the above presenters.
2. Part 2: Open discussions

2 Closing (summary)

Presentations were given by those working on the frontlines of education at Fukushima Hamadori about their thoughts on Fukushima, and also on diverse activities that are being conducted to disseminate information.

Through these presentations, we gained a common awareness of the importance of going to the actual site to see and hear things for oneself, and the necessity of disseminating information abroad in such languages as English.



“PRESENTED TO THE HOMETOWN IN 30 YEARS’ TIME”

REPORT ON THE VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM THE HAMADORI AREA IN FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE

◎**Date/Time:** Saturday, November 26, 2016, 13:30–15:30

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (main conference room)

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 100

1 | Summary

Part 1: Report of activities

Explanations were given using slides on the training that they had received before visiting Belarus, the 16 days of their stay in Belarus, and the preparations that they made for this presentation.

Part 2: Presentation

1. Report on the visit to Belarus by the Soso Team

Presentations were given on what the team had learned through their seven-day visit to the national children’s educational and health-improvement center Zubronok.

2. Report on the visit to the region of Gomel (an area affected by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster) by the Iwaki Team

Presentations were given on their visit to an area affected by the Chernobyl disaster, and what they learned from this visit.

3. Gift to our hometown 30 years hence: Presentations of the impressions of the four persons

Presentations were given on essays written by the participants on what changes they had discovered in themselves and what they had noticed through this project.

2 | Closing (summary)

- This project enabled us to show visitors from the participating countries outside Japan about initiatives being implemented for Fukushima, looking at 30 years into the future.
- Parents and guardians of the participating high school students, and the people who gave their support to this project, were able to learn about the details of the 16-day tour, and how the students were able to attain personal growth thereby.
- In the past, we have had many people come and see the disaster-affected area of Hamadori in Fukushima Prefecture, but we believe that there is significance, over the long term, in having high school students go and visit sites that have achieved progress from their past. At this present time, we hope to continue this project from next year onward, and be given the opportunity to present its results at the International Forum.



HOW SHOULD WE CONNECT FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE WITH THE WORLD?

THE ROLE OF PEOPLE WHO SEND OUT INFORMATION

◎**Date/Time:** Saturday, November 26, 2016, 14:00–17:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Gymnasium, 2nd floor meeting room

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 90 (of whom approx. 20 were non-Japanese)

◎**Panel Discussion:**

Moderator: Ms. Asakura (Representative, Omotenashi Guide Fukushima)

Panelists: Ms. Kawai (Omotenashi Fukushima Interpreter Guide Association)

Ms. Yokota (Omotenashi Fukushima Interpreter Guide Association)

Mr. William McMichael (Assistant Director of the Fukushima University International Center, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration)

◎**The prefecture’s initiatives and the utilization of Fukushima’s specially designated interpreter guides**

Mr. Suda, Chief at the Tourism Exchange Group, Tourism Exchange Agency, Fukushima Prefecture (Responsible for International Tourism)

◎**Group Discussion:**

Facilitators: Mr. Onoue (Facilitators Association of Japan)

Ms. Kato (Facilitators Association of Japan)

Ms. Hoshino (Facilitators Association of Japan)

1 | Overview

“How should we connect Fukushima Prefecture with the world?—The role of people who send out information” was offered as one of the sessions held at the International Forum “Thinking from the Disaster Affected Areas” conducted in Hirono Town from November 25 to 27. This session was planned with the aim of connecting different people involved in promoting information—such as those who are currently working in such positions, those who would like to be future promoters, NPO organizations conducting guide operations, and interpreter guides and other individuals—and develop a network that allows participants to share their respective strengths and the characteristics of their local areas. This program was also developed in view of the future recovery of tourism, and was designed to have people learn about the disaster affected areas and about how the residents there are trying to reclaim their lives, in order to give participants an understanding about the kind of tourism that gives hope, thereby giving them the motivation to incorporate what they have learned into their future activities.

At the panel discussion, we welcomed as the moderator Ms. Asakura, the Representative of the Omotenashi Guide Fukushima, a group comprised of Fukushima’s specially designated interpreter guides. Fukushima’s specially designated interpreter guides are described in the information material created by the prefecture’s tourism agency as “guides specializing in local tourism who possess information on radioactive matter, etc.,” and as such, they are expected to play an active role in promoting to the world the recovery of the area after the disaster. Ms. Kawai, a panelist, spoke about her experience of working as a coordinator for an Australian journalist in reporting about Naraha Town and other places. Ms. Yokota spoke about her experience as a coordinator for a Swiss film crew filming in Tomioka Town and other areas. Mr. McMichael talked about the Fukushima University’s Ambassador



The moderator Ms. Asakura (left) and panelists (right)

Program, which has so far welcomed more than 100 overseas students to Fukushima with the aim of deepening their understanding of the various issues faced by the area. He also explained, in a manner that was easy for all to understand, about how Fukushima is seen from abroad, and what kinds of prejudiced thinking impact such perspectives. The issues that were discussed during the panel discussion served as good indicators that could be used in the future when the general public attempts to actually send out information about Fukushima to the world. Many impressions that the world has about Fukushima are completely different from reality, but the participants of this event gained a common understanding that in order to correct such mistaken understandings, we need to acquire the information, knowledge and language skills that allow us to dispel such misunderstandings accordingly.

After the panel discussion, Mr. Suda, Chief of the Tourism Exchange Group, gave a presentation on the initiatives of the prefecture's Tourism Exchange Agency and about the utilization of Fukushima's specially designated interpreter guides. With regard to the prefecture's public relations activities, he spoke about how there is relatively high interest about Fukushima in Thailand and Taiwan, and that they are planning in the future to conduct brush-up seminars for Fukushima's specially designated interpreter guides and also host business meetings.

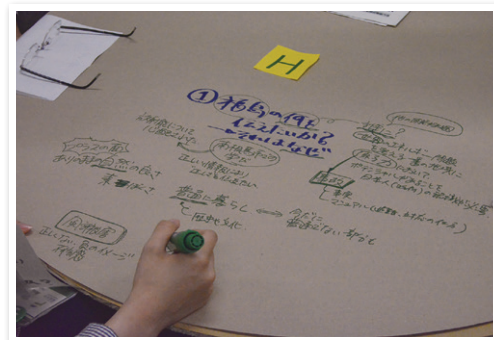
For the group discussion, the participants divided into 10 groups composed of five to seven people, with each group placing a cardboard cut-out in a circle to serve as the group's round table. The following questions were raised and discussed by each group.

1. Having heard the talks from the panel discussion, what information about Fukushima do you wish to promote to the world?
2. (Regarding the answer to question 1) Why is that so?
3. What kinds of things do you think you can do to realize this?

The round cardboard table, which was one meter in diameter, was highly effective in reducing the psychological distance that the participants felt toward each other, whom they had met for the first time. Participants from a variety of areas, such as interpreter guides, NPO members, university students and high school students, were seen actively giving voice to their opinions based on their own perspectives and attributes. Although the questions given were broad, they exchanged a wide range of opinions based on their respective areas of expertise, standpoints and roles.



Self introductions within the group



Writing opinions and thoughts on the round cardboard table

Opinions that were voiced from what the participants were feeling in their daily life demonstrated that there is a high level of interest at an individual level in disseminating information, thus showing that their frustration from years of seeing the image of Fukushima being warped had built up into a positive energy whereby the residents themselves wished to make a change, and this event has turned into an opportunity for the participants to share specific methods to make that possible.

Having held this session, we would like to develop more specific initiatives to raise awareness on disseminating information and conducting study groups, so that the residents themselves will be able to promote information on the diverse aspects of Fukushima.

THINKING ABOUT NURSING CHILDREN FROM DISASTER AFFECTED AREAS

PHILOSOPHY CAFÉ @ HIRONO

◎**Date/Time:** Saturday, November 26, 2016, 14:00–16:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (training room 1)

◎**Coordinator:** Ms. Horikawa (Specially Appointed Researcher, Fukushima University Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization)

◎**Philosophy Café Facilitator:** Mr. Tsuji (Philosopher)

◎**Number of participants:** 12

1 | Summary

Explanation of the objective: Now that five years have passed since the nuclear power plant disaster, we believe there is great significance in having the people think, here in the disaster-affected area of Hirono Town, about how we have been nurturing our children. The objective of this session is to hold discussions about komori (childcare), with everyone giving voice on an equal standing that reaches beyond the boundaries of various social standings, while also placing the focus on the perspectives of the mother, father and grandparents.

Proceedings: Mr. Tsuji, the facilitator from the Philosophy Café, gave a simple explanation about the proceedings, and the session began by having the participants make a “community ball” as a way of breaking the ice. The “community ball” is a colorful ball made from yarn, and is used mainly in classrooms in Hawaii as a way of having philosophical discussions. Hawaii has many people of different ethnicities, racial backgrounds and religions, so a truly important question for them to consider is how to create a society where people are able to respect one another. Fukushima Prefecture is faced with many diverse obstacles that were brought into the area by the radiation contamination, and what is believed to be important is creating an inclusive society by overcoming these obstacles through dialogue.

The collective effort to create a single ball was started by having each person give a self-introduction while taking turns to roll the yarn into a ball. Participants introduced themselves by talking about the following categories: (1) what they would like to be called during this session, (2) what they are interested in right now, (3) what they think about childcare, and (4) their dreams (or proposals).

The introductions began with Mr. Tsuji, followed by all of the participants in turn as they rolled the yarn into a ball. The session first began with nine participants, but three more people joined in later. The following comments on komori were given: komori means to watch over the children; komori and kosodate (child-raising) has given me twofold enjoyment in my life; (3) I am doing komori for my grandchildren, which I enjoy; komori is about listening to what children are saying, and watching over them; komori for children and grandchildren are the same and are both enjoyable; I wanted to raise a child but I was unable to; and I want to protect children from radiation pollution. The community ball was completed when nearly everyone had voiced their opinions.

The next step was to have a discussion that explored deeply into the meaning of komori.

Discussions started with a comment made by a participating woman who said, “I am not confident whether I actually performed komori, but my children grew up without problems.” After that, talks delved deeper into the meaning of childcare,



mainly about the differences between komori and kosodate.

- The word komori is used when looking after grandchildren or the children of other people. You do not say “I am doing komori” when you are raising your own children. So perhaps the word komori is applicable when a third person other than the parents is involved.
- The word for lullaby, komori-uta, has the same nuance as watching over a child. It does not imply the active act of raising children, but gives more of the impression of watching over them.
- The word kosodate gives the impression of being actively involved in raising a child.
- Kosodate covers a long period when looked at from the perspective of time, and continues from the time a child is born until he or she graduates from elementary or middle school. Meanwhile, komori seems to be for only a limited period of time, such as watching over the grandchildren, or watching children only for a short time while they are playing outside.
- Kosodate gives the impression of changing the child, whereas komori gives the impression of making sure that the child does not encounter any accidents or does not fall ill.
- I think kosodate is something that is necessary for the child until the child grows and becomes independent, whereas komori is about protecting an independent child. I think it is important to watch over my grandchildren in a likewise manner.
- Kosodate covers up to the point when the child becomes independent, and after that, it becomes mimamori (watching over).
- Kosodate covers a certain period of time, which is from the time the child is born until he or she marries or begins working.
- Komori is only sometimes, and is conducted from time to time, and not over a long period of time.
- Kosodate has a social element. It can be covered by welfare and other services.
- I think kosodate is close to education or training. Komori is to provide safety and security to prevent crimes or disasters.
- The difference between safety and security is that security gives peace of mind. Safety probably has some kinds of standards, and it is fine if a certain level of those standards is satisfied.

2 | Closing (summary)

Of the 12 participants, there were only three women, and there were no participants from the young mothers of Hirono Town. This is believed to be because the date of the session coincided with the day of a school event. The attempt to break the ice by building a community ball while the participants introduced themselves and talked about their thoughts on komori helped to encourage all present to actually participate in the session. The ages and occupations of the participants varied greatly, encompassing students in their 20s to retirees in their 70s, and it was very interesting to be able to hear their thoughts on komori from their different standpoints.

It is not easy to listen earnestly to what each and every person has to say, and to speak your own mind in your own words, instead of just reciting what you have heard other people say. However, the session gave the impression of having achieved a good dialogue, without any awkward silences. We believe this session was successful in having realized two hours of intense dialogue. What is probably most important for the future is for this Philosophy Café to be continued. It is important for each and every resident to engage in dialogue by giving voice to his or her own thoughts.

PASSING DOWN HOPE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS, COPING WITH THE LONG-TERM DISASTER AFTERMATH

◎**Date/Time:** Saturday, November 26, 2016, 17:00–18:30

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (main conference room)

◎**Coordinators:**

Dr. Hayashi (Specially Appointed Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Fukushima University)

Ms. Horikawa (Specially Appointed Researcher, Fukushima University Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization)

◎**Presenters:**

Mr. Uno (Councilor, Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction Agency)

Dr. Fukusaku (Vice-Principal, Higashi Nippon International University)

Mr. Jean-Christophe Gariel (IRSN)

Mr. Pascal Croüail (CEPN)

Mr. William McMichael (Assistant Director of the Fukushima University International Center)

Mr. Yoshikawa (Representative, AFW)

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 60



1 | Providing the topics of discussion

Now that five years has passed since the slew of disasters, Fukushima's affected areas are speeding up the process of having their residents return to their hometowns, but such efforts are also raising various associated problems. This session took the issues that were discussed during the morning session and had a total of six presenters, comprising NGO members from in and outside Japan, as well as a researcher in Japan, an NPO representative and a government official, talk about the issues from each of their perspectives. The objective of this session was to have the presenters talk about future prospects and proposals in a roundtable format and have the participants share information, so that the story of “hope” toward the reconstruction of their hometowns could be passed down to future generations.

2 | Summary of presentations given by each presenter at the roundtable session

Councilor Uno of the Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction Agency explained about the government's policies up to 2020 using a document titled “Proposals by the Meeting of Experts on the Future Image of the 12 Towns and Villages of Fukushima” (July 2015). This proposal explains three basic policies. One considers the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games as an opportunity for Fukushima to promote its recovery to the world, and summarizes “the issues and their resolutions toward 2020, with a view of what the region should be like 30 to 40 years hence.” The second seeks to promote to the world a Fukushima-style regional revitalization that takes into account the problem of a declining population, and looks into the development of a community that forms broad-ranging partnerships and is also sustainable. The third looks at a future vision that gives hope to the people, even in times of difficulty. The goal for 30 to 40 years from now is to realize a recovery that has achieved progress to its maximum potential. It may be possible to achieve a level of population that exceeds that forecast before the disaster by realizing high living environments and creating new industries, and moreover, the air dose rate is expected to fall to an appreciable level. Furthermore, children today are demonstrating a wish to be involved in the recovery efforts themselves.

As for specific issues to be considered and measures to be taken toward 2020, when we look at the revitalization and creation of industries and occupations, 60% of businesses have re-opened their business by returning to their hometowns. However, the percentage of people who have returned to their hometowns is just 20%. Countermeasures to this present situation are being implemented, with a team developed comprised of people from the national and prefectural governments as well as the private

sectors to visit each of the businesses and to receive consultations on the problems of reconstruction. They are offering human resources acquisition, equipment investment, sales route development and other activities as measures to help businesses achieve self-support. In the Fukushima Innovation Coast concept, the following efforts are being advanced: the creation of new industries for the framework of making Fukushima into an international industrial city; a remote technology development center in Naraha Town; an international decommissioning joint research center in Tomioka Town (the development of a remote device to take out debris); an analysis and research center in Okuma Town (for the manufacture of fuel debris and processing technology); and the development of robots for use in disasters.

In the field of agriculture and forestry, the aim is to realize efficient agriculture through the use of robotic technologies in reducing labor and increasing rice production, and in the large-scale production of crops. At the same time, support will be given toward the production and utilization of CLT (cross laminated timber) and toward facilities that implement the use of woody biomass.

Other efforts include the acquisition and education of human resources in medical institutions, broad-range infrastructure development, urban planning, wide-regional cooperation, and the promotion of tourism. To realize this, the prefectural government serves a significant role as being the governing body covering a broad area.

Mr. Fukusaku (Vice-Principal of Higashi Nippon International University) mentioned “partnership” and “coexistence” as keywords to resolve the “friction” and “division” that had arisen in the disaster-affected areas. The keywords he raised have in common such meanings as “diversity” and “inclusion.” Resilience is also another factor. This word can be interpreted to mean having both strength and flexibility. The Japanese bureaucratic system is not good at being flexible, and this weakness becomes apparent in times of major disaster. We must overcome this in order to achieve recovery. The common understanding that we discussed at the “Tea Salon” that Mr. Fukusaku facilitated at the International Forum last year was that we would think about the future for ourselves, the future of Futaba, and the future of Fukushima, in that order. In order to choose how to live one’s own life, there needs to be a broad-ranging and cross-sectional vision for the local area that has involvement from its residents; and the problem is that this does not exist. And so, we need to think properly about what the concept behind the word “resident” is. The belief that the ties of local residents are more reliable than those of national citizens or large groups of people was shattered by the disaster. Institutional and government obstacles are creating various problems. A typical example is the problem of compensation. The fact that compensation changes greatly depending on the boundaries of the community and government administrations has created friction among residents. Even at yesterday’s session on “Thinking about Disaster Recovery Public Housing,” there was a difference between disaster recovery public housing and disaster public housing, in that the first one is built and operated by Fukushima Prefecture, while the second is built and operated by the town and villages. Also, disaster recovery public housing has a system of placing community exchange staff who provide support, but this system is not provided in disaster public housing. These factors are also creating friction between their respective residents. Regional revitalization plans that serve as comprehensive strategies for that local area are being developed as a set with visions concerning their population, but such plans are beginning to show some discrepancies, such as due to the fact that the actual increase in the number of evacuees is not included. A grand design that encompasses the different regions is necessary to resolve such problems. Instead of forcing residents to accept different measures, the local and national governments should fulfill their leadership roles.

Questions on life cycle need to be considered. We need to think about the timeline. To do so, there is an urgent need to utilize the framework for coordinating between central city areas. For example, after the Chuetsu Earthquake, Nagaoka City merged with a neighboring city, slowly in a peaceful manner, and by realizing the merger along with the disaster recovery efforts at the same time, they have been advancing the development of their local area in a sustainable manner. Mr. Fukusaku proposes that we use this example as a reference in bringing partnership and coexistence to the regional areas.

Mr. Gariel (IRSN: Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety in France) talked about his organization, gave a summary of the morning session, spoke of the role of IRSN in Fukushima, and gave his opinion on methods to protect oneself from low-dosage radiation exposure. The experience at Fukushima is extremely important in thinking about a possible nuclear power plant accident in France. He demonstrated interest in the roles served by universities and other various institutions, as well as different experts. He believes that the humanitarian aspect of this accident needs to be properly explained by the experts. The question of how people should handle low-dosage radiation contamination is a difficult issue, but experts need to be careful when dealing with the limits of unconfirmed knowledge. It is important to monitor and watch over different individuals. Furthermore, we need to respect the values and choices that each individual makes.

Mr. Crouail (CEPN [Nuclear Protection Evaluation Center]) spoke about the examples of research conducted in Belarus and

Finland regarding how residents deal with the questions of whether it is safe to continue living in the area of the accident, whether they should evacuate, and whether they should return with their children. He said that the same situation exists in Fukushima. It is evident that long-term environmental pollution affects people’s bodies, social relationships, economy and culture. He said that, as can be said from the results of their studies in Chernobyl, Japan needs to have experts and residents cooperate and evaluate the situation of radiation contamination, share what was experienced amongst the disaster-affected towns and villages, and disseminate information on their results and achievements to the world, so that such information can be shared with people around the globe.

Mr. McMichael (Vice President of Fukushima University International Center) gave three proposals on how to disseminate information outside Japan. First, a model needs to be built for regional revitalization that includes such factors as a vision for a new Fukushima after the disaster, a new philosophy, and a new energy strategy. Traditionally, efforts to disseminate information have only been focused on negating harmful rumors. But as was said in the opening session, what is important is to have the Futaba region take the lead in sending out information based on a new mindset of becoming a world heritage site. Secondly, there is the question of who will be sending out the information. We must further advance such efforts that were being implemented from before the disaster, such as the development of global human resources and ESD (Education for Sustainable Development). In addition, he proposed that people work with foreign residents living in Fukushima to enhance their communication skills and help empower themselves. Thirdly, there is the question of how information should be disseminated. We must make use of strategies toward inbound tourists to promote information on existing facilities such as the disaster recovery museum and other museums. We should create more and more pamphlets and other materials on such facilities and place them in tourist information counters.

Mr. Yoshikawa uses his experience as a former employee of TEPCO to offer study groups and events that go on tour of nuclear power plants, developed from the perspective of the local residents. He published the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Decommissioning Guide, which explains what will happen to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. He is also providing information through Yahoo! News on the decommissioning situation and the conditions at the disaster-affected areas. He expounds on the necessity of having people from TEPCO involved in decommissioning and people from institutions affiliated with the decommissioning engage in dialogue and get to know each other. He hopes that the decommissioning will take place in a manner that everyone can agree upon, and that it will be safe. It is important to have an environment where people can lead normal lives in a normal townscape. The innovation framework seems like a self-righteous, self-serving idea. In a way, it is telling the people who were forced to suffer due to the nuclear power plant that they have to live in a way that keeps them associated with the nuclear power plant. We need to stop and think, from the perspective of the residents who actually live in this place: if we can give hope back to the people who live there, then we can say that hope exists in that place. Their hometown may thereby change into a place that they can feel proud of.

3 | Q&A

A time for questions and answers was not particularly created, and we asked for comments from the floor. A Vietnamese researcher said that it is important to think about how Fukushima, which had been faced with this singular experience, could overcome the disaster, and for everyone to work together to bring such efforts to success. International students said it is important to learn from the people of Fukushima, but it is also important to know what the different people truly wish for.

4 | Closing (summary)

The talks given at the roundtable by the six presenters demonstrated their unique perspectives and characteristics. The time allotted for this session was in the evening, for a duration of 1 hour and 30 minutes. Thus, time was not made for discussions with participants. However, we believe this session was highly successful in giving participants a place to hear directly from the presenters, think about what was said, and share their thoughts in real time. We hope that what was said at this session will be of reference when conducting detailed discussions at local meetings, workplaces, and at universities. We hope to continue this session in the future.

THINKING ABOUT A SUCCESSION OF TRADITIONAL EVENTS TO FOSTER MENTAL RESTORATION

◎**Date/Time:** Sunday, November 27, 2016, 10:00–12:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (main conference room)

◎**Coordinators, Panelists:**

Mr. Kaketa (Member of the Fukushima Prefectural Council for the Preservation of Cultural Properties, winner of the Order of Cultural Merit), Mr. Kujiraoka (Parishioner of the Kashima Shrine), Mr. Nemoto (Parishioner of Otaki Shrine), Mr. Kitago (Parishioner of Yakumo Shrine), Mr. Yanai (Parishioner of Kameyama Shrine)

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 100

1 | Summary

1. Part 1: Keynote lecture

“Recovery of the Heart and the Hamakudari Shrine Ritual: For the Development of Hirono Town” by Mr. Kaketa

2. Part 2: Presentations by the parishioners of each shrine

“Hamakudari Shrine Ritual at Kashima Shrine and Otaki Shrine” by Mr. Kujiraoka

“Hamakudari Shrine Ritual at Otaki Shrine and Kashima Shrine” by Mr. Nemoto

“Hamakudari Shrine Ritual at Yakumo Shrine” by Mr. Kitago

“Hyakuya (Hundred Arrow) Festival at Kameyama Shrine” by Mr. Yanai

3. Part 3: Panel discussion

Mr. Kaketa, Mr. Kujiraoka, Mr. Nemoto, Mr. Kitago, Mr. Yanai



2 | Closing (summary)

Hosting a festival is one way of serving the important function of bringing together and connecting the people of the local community. We were able to reconfirm the fact that such festivals give people something to believe in and provide them with a sense of reassurance. At this International Forum, “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas,” it was very meaningful to think about the festivals of Hirono Town considering the hearts of the people of all the disaster affected areas, where the words “separation” and “worry” are often spoken. Based on what was discussed at this panel discussion, government bodies should deepen their discussions on what they can and should do toward hosting such events as festivals, despite the obstacles arising from the separation of government and religion, as a way of enhancing such invisible factors as the ties that bring people together, the sense of solidarity, and the love of the hometown that generations before us have tried to pass down to future generations.



REPORT ON THE OVERSEAS TRAINING BY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM HIRONO TOWN CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION PROGRAM IN CANADA

◎**Date/Time:** Sunday, November 27, 2016, 10:00–12:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Gymnasium (2nd floor meeting room)

◎**Facilitator:** Ms. Okamoto

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 60

1 | Summary

1. Part 1: Overview of the program

2. Part 2: Group presentations (by theme)

What I learned from a Japanese person living as an immigrant in Canada (four persons)

What I learned through exchange with my Canadian buddies (seven persons)

What I learned from interactions with my host families (seven persons)

What I learned from Japanese people working at the Consulate-General of Japan in Vancouver (four persons)

3. Part 3: Q&A

Q. How did you manage to enjoy yourself, even if you did not understand the language?

A. Even if I did not understand English, we were able to communicate because the other person would write it out for me, or would use body language.

Q. What was the biggest change that you see in yourself from before going to Canada to after returning to Japan?

A. After returning to Japan, in my daily life, I find that I am able to give voice to my thoughts more actively and have improved my communication skills.

Q. You spoke about many things that were nice about Canada, but what things do you think are better in Japan than in Canada?

A. Outside Japan, you need to pay a tip when you eat out, but you don't need to do this in Japan.

A. Baths (since culturally, Canadians do not soak in baths; they only have showers), etc.

Q. What, in turn, was better in Canada?

A. The volume of food when you order a meal, which made me happy.

If you greet someone when you are just walking down a road, they return your greeting.

The homestay family had many bedrooms.

Etc.

2 | Closing (summary)

- Results of this session

We developed important networks for the future of our overseas trip program, such as being able to invite a person originally from Canada to act as the facilitator for this session. Also, for each theme of the presentation during this session, participants from various countries gave their comments, so that students who returned from Canada felt a renewed sense of importance in having multicultural exchanges and in having English language skills, which in turn enhanced their desire to further their studies. We believe that the experience that the students gained from this program will have a positive effect toward on students, such as in nurturing their understanding of people of different cultures.

- Future development and approaches, etc.

The problem with having students prepare their presentations in advance was that they did not demonstrate much improvement in their speaking abilities. In the future, we may need to take measures that include having the listening students raise questions. Through this, students may become able to conduct active discussions in a situation where the topic goes into areas that they had not prepared for as part of their presentation.



RESTORATION OF FARMLAND AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE FUTABA DISTRICT

THINKING ABOUT COMMUNITY RENOVATION THROUGH FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

◎**Date/Time:** Sunday, November 27, 2016, 10:00–12:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (training room 1)

◎**Convener, Panelists, Lecturers, etc.:** Dr. Hayashi, Associate Professor, Fukushima University

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 50

1 | Overview

1. Part 1

At the beginning of the session, Dr. Hayashi, serving as a convener, stated that the objective of this session was to discuss environmental rehabilitation and regional development through food and agriculture across Hirono Town and Naraha Town, based on the results of the session “Let’s think about agriculture in the affected area” of the International Forum held in Hirono Town in September 2015.

Then, two representatives each from Hirono Town and Naraha Town gave a practical report.

- Hirono Town “Asamigawa Yume Kaigi” (Mr. Suzuki)
- Hirono Town “Niizuma Organic Farm” (Mr. Niizuma)
- Naraha Town “Kitada Area Revitalization Executive Committee” (Mr. Yamauchi)
- Naraha Town “Kidogawa Fisheries Cooperative Association” (Mr. Suzuki)

2. Part 2

The Agribusiness Inquiry Group comprising second-year students of Futaba Future High School reported the results of their research activities (a suggestion for the provision of school lunches made based on the concept of local production for local consumption; there was also a suggestion for the distribution of planters of golden-rayed lilies of Japan).

3. Part 3: General discussion

Following Part 1 and Part 2, a general discussion was held involving the audience at the venue. Various opinions were expressed there, including a comment asking high school students to consider a lineup of presents in return for “furusato nozei (a tax system in which taxpayers can choose to divert part of their residential tax to a specified local government),” aside from their suggestion for the provision of school lunches made based on the concept of local production for local consumption, and an expectation for the realization of school lunches in accordance with their suggestion.



2 | Closing (summary)

The session constituted a significant step forward by providing the opportunity to discuss local foodstuffs and food cultures, the natural environment, agricultural land, and agriculture in both Hirono Town and Naraha Town. Moreover, two workshops were launched as spin-offs from the session: a workshop in which the history of the agriculture, fisheries and food industries in both towns is traced back to be applied it to the future, and a workshop aiming to create a recycling agriculture by linking agriculture with stockbreeding (as of March 2017). Under the themes of these two workshops, we will continue discussions and work to expand a network in the new fiscal year.

LIVING IN HIRONO TOWN AND RADIATION

◎**Date/Time:** Sunday, November 27, 2016, 12:30–15:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (main conference room)

◎**Coordinator, Panelists:**

Hirono Town Radiation Measures Division, Hirono Town Radiation Safety and Health Promotion Committee (Mr. Kumagai President ; Mr. Sato and Mr. Wada members), residents (Ms. Abe, Mr. Endo, and Ms. Niitsuma)

◎**Special guest:** Dr. Kajita, Professor and Director of the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research, the University of Tokyo; Won the Nobel Prize in Physics

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 140



1 | Overview

1. Part 1: Activity report and research publication

- Hirono Town Radiation Safety and Health Promotion Committee: “Living and radiation in Hirono Town”
- Hirono Town Radiation Counseling Room: “Efforts of the Radiation Counseling Room”
- Futaba Future High School: “Where does radiation come from?”

2. Part 2: Panel discussion

- How to receive information in Hirono Town and disseminate information from the town five years after the nuclear power plant accident
- Comments on research publication by Professor Takaaki Kajita

2 | Closing (summary)

The session clarified the following:

- We can specifically check the radiation conditions in the lives in Hirono Town by receiving explanations on radiation doses in food cooked by us and on personal doses measured with a whole body counter or a D-shuttle dosimeter in the training programs on food and on water offered by the Radiation Counseling Room.
- Efforts of high school students to deal with radiation-related questions and think about them are very important in voluntarily looking at radiation issues.
- It is necessary to create the opportunity to actively provide information on radiation to young mothers, who are likely to have health concerns from radiation exposure, and have them think about radiation.

Development and direction of future activities, etc.

- The Radiation Counseling Room, which was established in November 2014 as a risk communication institute that addresses residents’ health concerns related to radiation exposure, expanded its activities in this fiscal year, including conducting training programs on food and on water. The Radiation Counseling Room is intended to carefully provide information on radiation by expanding its scope of activities to residents who will return to the town, young generations, and parents with children. It will also work to deepen its cooperation with various institutions and organizations, as indicated in the message delivered by Professor Kajita.



TEA CEREMONY

- ◎**Date/Time:** Friday, November 25, 2016, 18:00
- ◎**Location:** “Seimeikan,” Hirono Town Futatsunuma Park
- ◎**Convener:**
 - Ms. Sosei Igari (Junko)
 - Ms. Sori Yauchi
 - Ms. Sokei Hatohara
 - Ms. Soyu Owada
 - Ms. Sosei Kazaura

On November 25, 2016, a tea ceremony event was held at “Seimeikan” in Futatsunuma Park in Hirono Town, as one of the events of the International Forum held from November 25 to 27. The tea ceremony was organized by residents of Hirono Town.

The event was abruptly held twice because many visitors wanted to participate in the tea ceremony, and was attended by a total of approximately 50 people from Japan and abroad.

We believe that the event provided the opportunity for many people to experience the ancient Japanese tradition of the tea ceremony which is being passed down over the generations in Hirono Town.



EXHIBITION OF THE EFFORTS OF THE RADIATION COUNSELING ROOM

◎**Date/Time:** Friday, November 25, 9:00–17:00

Saturday to Sunday, November 26 to 27, 9:00–12:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Gymnasium

◎**Content:** Display, exhibition, etc. in a booth

(Panel) “Training Program on Food,” “Training Program on Water,” “Hirono Town Monitoring Map,” “Radiation decay over time measured by monitoring posts at various points in Hirono Town,” “Monitoring at five points outside a single house (comparison between 2012 and 2015),” etc.

(Banner) Introduction of the Radiation Measures Division by the Radiation Measures Office and the Radiation Counseling Room

(Various types of dose measurement device) DOSEe, D-shuttle dosimeter, NaI scintillation detector, GM counter

(Relevant materials) - Various booklets and materials

(Other)

- Looking at the track of radiation through a cloud chamber experiment
- Measuring the dose of radioactive materials around us with a kit of Alpha-chan and Beta-chan
- Measuring air doses with a scintillation detector
- Measuring personal doses with a D-shuttle dosimeter (on-site measuring)



PANEL DISPLAY

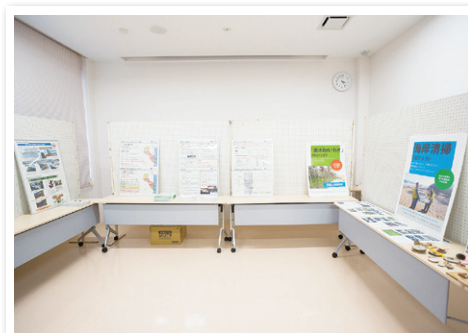
RECONSTRUCTION SITUATION OF FUKUSHIMA – FOCUSING ON THE EFFORTS BY EIGHT MUNICIPALITIES

◎**Content:**

The reconstruction situation of Fukushima Prefecture was displayed, focusing on the efforts of eight municipalities. Brochures were also distributed to promote understanding of the current situation.

(Panel) Efforts of the eight municipalities in the Futaba District and by the Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction Agency

(Relevant materials) Various booklets and materials



INTRODUCTION OF OVERSEAS MEDIA WORKS AND STUDY TOURS IN THE SOSO DISTRICT

◎**Date/Time:** Saturday, November 26, 2016, 14:00–17:00

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Gymnasium (2nd floor meeting room)

◎**Number of participants:** Approx. 30

- “La Terre Abandonnée” produced by Film Director Gilles Laurent (Belgium) was introduced by Ms. Toshiko Sato, a cast member, and then the trailer of the film was shown.
- A 15-minute shortened version of “Half Life in Fukushima,” a documentary film, was shown with comments by Ms. Ayumi Yokota, who coordinated a film crew.
- The photo collection “Retrace Our Steps” and the panels displayed there were introduced.

Following the session described above, a panel display of overseas media works and various study tours conducted in the Soso District was carried out. Shortened versions of overseas films were also shown.

This side event was planned with the main theme of “Fukushima seen by foreigners,” to share one of the aspects of Fukushima Prefecture unknown to us through works produced by foreigners. Although the films shown in the event are documentary films and raise serious issues, they depict something that we should not forget when achieving post-quake reconstruction over a long period of time. In this light, these films seem to serve as an important reminder for disseminating information in the future.

Various activities conducted in the Soso District were introduced through the panel display. In addition, copies of an illustrated book entitled Story of Namie Municipal Ukedo Elementary School—Over Mt. Ohira, which conveys the lessons learned from the tsunami, were offered by Dankai no Noblesse Oblige, a non-profit organization, and were presented to those interested. The book would be helpful in preventing the memories of the earthquake from fading away and in collecting information in the future, and would also become a source based on which participants in the event could learn about the current situation of Fukushima Prefecture.



CEREMONY RICE CAKE MAKING

◎**Date/Time:** Sunday, November 27, 2016, around 11:00–14:00

◎**Location:** in front of Hirono Town Gymnasium

◎**Participants, Collaborators:**

Hirono Town Office (Radiation Measures Division, Industrial Promotion Division, Lifelong Education Division, etc.)

Residents (Hirono Town Women's Association, etc.)

Support staff

Volunteers from Futaba Future High School

◎**Menu:**

- Takato mochi (rice cake served with grated daikon)
- Egoma mochi (rice cake with perilla seeds)
- Make rice cakes in front of the gymnasium.
- Distribute the freshly made rice cakes to attendants.

Rice cake making was performed using new rice and foodstuffs produced in Hirono Town, aiming to eradicate damage caused by harmful rumors and to pass down this traditional custom. Warmed up by residents of Hirono Town and people from outside the town, the event capped off the last day of the International Forum.



PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM

With the aim of organizing an international forum in which many disaster-affected residents of Hirono Town and other towns would take an interest, the committee was set up to plan and organize various events of the International Forum, “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas.”

1 | Members

The members of the Planning and Organization Committee are participants in planning meetings as listed below:

- ◎ Town volunteers (participants in the International Symposium held in 2015, etc.)
 - ◎ Officials from each municipality of the Futaba District
 - ◎ Experts who participated in the opinion exchange meetings
 - ◎ Others involved in the planning and organization of the International Forum
- * Members should not be fixed, but anyone who can provide ideas or devise plans may participate in the committee.
* No chairperson is appointed. The Secretariat will coordinate the planning and details of the forum through sufficient exchange of views with the members of the committee.
* In principle, meetings are held open to the press.

2 | Secretariat

International Forum Secretariat, Reconstruction Planning Division, Hirono Town Office
35 Nawashirogae, Shimokitaba, Hirono-machi, Futaba-gun, Fukushima Prefecture, 979-0402 Japan
Tel: +81-240-27-1251 (direct) / Fax: +81-240-27-2212

3 | Meeting details

[1st Meeting]

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 14:00–17:20

Location: 2nd floor meeting room, Hirono Town Gymnasium

Agenda:

- ◎ Looking back on the International Forum held in FY 2015
- ◎ Cooperation with overseas institutions
- ◎ Outline of the International Forum held in FY 2016

[2nd Meeting]

Date/Time: Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 14:00–17:00

Location: 2nd floor main conference room, Hirono Town Community Center

Agenda:

- ◎ How to decide the theme of the International Forum held in FY 2016

Planning and Organization Committee of the International Forum

- ◎ Responses before and after the International Forum
- ◎ How to invite participants
- ◎ Considering the participation of residents
- ◎ Availability to implement side events
- ◎ Location of meetings of the Planning and Organization Committee
- ◎ Joint sponsorship, sponsors, etc.

[3rd Meeting]

Date/Time: Friday, July 29, 2016, 14:00–17:00

Location: 2nd floor main conference room, Hirono Town Community Center

Agenda:

- ◎ Status of planning and coordination for the International Forum and review of individual sessions
- ◎ Slogan of the International Forum
- ◎ Discussion

[4th Meeting]

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 29, 2016, 14:00–17:00

Location: Meeting room 1, Koriyama Office, Tomioka Town Office

Agenda:

- ◎ Schedule of the International Forum
- ◎ Outline of sessions
- ◎ Explanation on sessions (each convener)
- ◎ Free discussion

[5th Meeting]

Date/Time: Thursday, November 11, 2016, 14:00–17:00

Location: 3rd floor meeting room, Hirono Town Office

Agenda:

- ◎ Entire status of the International Forum and review of individual sessions
- ◎ Guidelines for session operation
- ◎ Discussion

4 | Member list of the Planning and Organization Committee of the International Forum (Titles omitted; in no particular order)

(Town volunteers)

Yoshihiko Isobe Director, Hirono Wai Wai Project Secretariat

(Experts etc.)

Yasuji Sawada Mentor, Division for Interdisciplinary Advanced Research and Education, Tohoku University

Mikiyasu Nakayama Professor, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, the University of Tokyo

Ryo Fujikura Professor, Faculty of Sustainability Studies, Hosei University

Kunpei Hayashi Associate Professor, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Fukushima University

Kazunori Akutagawa Vice President, Fukushima National Institute of Technology, Fukushima College

Masayuki Fukusaku	Vice President, Higashi Nippon International University
William McMichael	Assistant Director, International Center, Fukushima University
Ayumi Takahashi	Coordinator, Fukushima Future Studies Promotion Secretariat, Fukushima University
Yasumichi Nakai	Director, Sousou Area Support Satellite, Fukushima University
Naoko Horikawa	Specially appointed researcher, Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization, Fukushima University
Nobuo Shimazaki	Specially appointed expert, Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization/Sousou Area Support Satellite, Fukushima University
Maki Tsuboi	Specially appointed expert, Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization/Kawauchi Office, Sousou Area Support Satellite, Fukushima University
Ippei Nango	Vice President, Fukushima Prefectural Futaba Future High School
Nobuo Sato	Teacher, Fukushima Prefectural Futaba Future High School
Fujio Shono	Director, Secretariat of the Futaba District Education Revitalization Vision Promotion Council, Fukushima Prefecture
Yumiko Nishimoto	Chief Director, NPO Happy Road Net
Takemi Yamazaki	Director, NPO Happy Road Net
Koji Takanashi	NPO Iwaki Council to Support the Victims of 3.11 Disaster (Minpuku)
Nobuko Akashi	Secretariat of the Futaba District Education Revitalization Vision Promotion Council, Fukushima Prefecture
Toshio Iwama	Deputy Director, Tohoku Regional Development Association

(Reconstruction Agency)

Atsushi Fujishima	Director, Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction Agency
Hiromu Uno	Director, Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction Agency

(Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

Toru Masuzawa	Deputy Division Chief, Tohoku Regional Bureau
Jun Kitami	Section Chief, Iwaki National Highway Office

(Naraha Town)

Masahiro Matsumoto	Chief, Reconstruction Promotion Division
Hiroyuki Ohira	Reconstruction Promotion Division

(Tomioka Town)

Ryo Sugimoto	Assistant Division Chief, Planning Division
Kunihiro Sasaki	Section Chief, Regional Development Section, Planning Division

(Katsurao Village)

Takayuki Honda	Reconstruction Promotion Section, General Affairs Division
----------------	--

(Okuma Town)

Yoshihiro Takada	Assistant Division Chief, Planning and Coordination Division
------------------	--

(Hirono Town)

Satoshi Endo	Mayor, Hirono Town
Masato Matsumoto	Division Chief, Reconstruction Planning Division
Other municipal officials (Oda, Yokoyama, etc.)	



International Forum



“Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas”

Edited and published / Reconstruction Planning Division, Hirono Town
<http://www.town.hirono.fukushima.jp/>