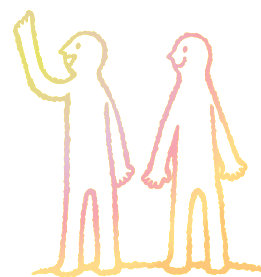




4th International Forum “Message from Disaster Affected Areas”

—Eat, sing, and talk at a multifaceted meeting in Hirono Town—

October 12 – 15, 2017
[Report]



International Forum “Message from Disaster Affected Areas”



Hirono Town, Fukushima Prefecture

Organized by : Hirono Town

Co-organized by : Higashi Nippon International University / Kumamoto Gakuen University /

Isotope Science Center, The University of Tokyo / J-Village / Naraha Town / Katsurao Village

Sponsored by : Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction Agency / Fukushima Prefecture / Fukushima University /

The Association of Children’s Song Writers in Japan

CONTENTS

■ Introduction	01
■ Program	02
■ Message from “Disaster Affected Areas & Hirono”	03
■ Opening Ceremony	05
■ Sessions	09

Introduction

The 4th International Forum “Message from Disaster Affected Areas”—Eat, sing, and talk at a multifaceted meeting in Hirono Town—was held from Thursday, October 12 to Sunday, October 15, 2017.

Based on the **message** adopted at the 3rd International Forum, “Thinking from Disaster Affected Areas,” held last year, this forum focused on rediscovering our town’s attractiveness, along with the forum’s initial themes of solving problems through intercommunity cooperation and disseminating information from disaster affected areas. Other municipalities, relevant organizations, and educational institutions participated in the discussions on these themes.

During the forum, with the aim of facilitating the town’s recovery from the disaster, the administration of Hirono Town discussed various administrative issues with its citizens and other participants in 20 sessions and events, while also expanding the scope of the discussions to include the current state and future prospects of the Futaba district and Fukushima prefecture.

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



PROGRAM

OCTOBER
12TH
[THU]

- Opening Ceremony
- Opening session
Keynote address – Attraction of excavation in Egypt –
- [Session 1] Discussion on the decommissioning of nuclear reactors
- [Session 2] Easy-to-understand explanation of wildlife damage control
- Tea ceremony

OCTOBER
13TH
[FRY]

- [Session 3] Attraction of the Coastal Region and cycling tourism
- [Session 4] Hirono, hometown of children’s songs – Children’s songs and mental restoration –
- Sale of foods by Ikuseikai, a social welfare corporation

OCTOBER
14TH
[SAT]

- [Session 5] J-Village – Football and community development –
- Sale of foods by Yuaikai, a social welfare corporation

OCTOBER
15TH
[SUN]

- [Session 6] Report on the overseas training received by junior high school students from Hirono Town – Learning from cross-cultural experiences –
- [Session 7] Current situation of and outlook for the development of new therapeutic agents using short-lived, alpha-emitting nuclides
- [Session 8] What does restoration mean for us? – Thinking about restoration based on our six-and-a-half-year rebuilding effort –
- [Session 9 & 10] Presentations of the results of the research project “Exploration for Creating the Future” & drama “Anohi Kakureta Hi” (I hid that day)
- Sampling of healthy Junen-udon noodles
- Practice sale of agricultural and commercial products by Futaba Future High School

PERMANENT
EXHIBITION

- Screening of video works on the theme of Hirono Town
- Information on radiation monitoring in Hirono Town
- Exhibition of dinosaur fossils



4th International Forum

Message from “Disaster Affected Areas”

The 4th International Forum “Message from Disaster Affected Areas”—Eat, sing, and talk at a multifaceted meeting in Hirono Town— was held from October 12 to 15. During the four-day forum, various issues, including overcoming reputational damage to the disaster-affected areas, reviving local cultures, and rediscovering the attractive features of the region, were discussed in 12 sessions and 8 side events and interactive events, each employing one of the three approaches: eat, sing, or talk.

1) Although many residents are still evacuated from their homes, the disaster-affected regions seem to be returning to normal as reconstruction in the tsunami-hit coastal area progresses and new roads and facilities are built. These regions, however, are faced with the challenge of decommissioning the nuclear reactors, which will require several decades. For restoration of the disaster-stricken areas, it is absolutely essential to ensure transparency in the decommissioning process and maintain a dialogue between relevant authorities and local residents. Following this forum, further discussions for dispelling people’s anxieties should be continued as a basis for shaping the future of the regions.

2) The 23rd Hirono Children’s Song Festival was held for the first time during the International Forum to highlight the Children’s Song Culture Award presented to Hirono Town this year and the centennial of the birth of children’s songs in Japan to be marked in 2018. Six and a half years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear accident caused by the disaster. In the previous forum last year, we identified the need for restoring peace of mind among people in the disaster-affected areas. Since Hirono Town has promoted the culture of children’s songs for many years as the birthplace of the well-known children’s song “Tombo no Megane” (Eyeglasses of Dragonflies), we have high hopes that children’s songs will be able to heal psychological wounds and help people restore their peace of mind.

3) With an eye to the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, J-Village, a national football training center, is about to reopen. The training center is highly expected to trigger the revitalization of the community. The point is how it should contribute to the revitalization. During this forum, we talked about the needs of the residents, the expected role of the training center, what goals to set and other issues, based on which we will expand our discussions to include the Futaba district and Fukushima prefecture. Based on the results of our discussion, we will work in mutual cooperation with activities in the community.

4) Overcoming reputational damage to the disaster-affected areas is one of the biggest challenges they face. In the event held under the theme of “eating,” many visitors tasted junen-udon noodles made using locally produced ingredients. Now in the harvest season in the fall, full rice ears are drooping heavily, waiting to be reaped. This year, farmers in Tomioka Town rejoiced when they planted rice in the town for the first time since the earthquake disaster, which was reported by the media. However, the harmful reputation created by the nuclear accident is yet to be dispelled even though people are paying less attention to the disaster-affected areas in Fukushima prefecture. We believe the shortest way to solve this problem is to make steady progress one step at a time and never stop.

5) In order for its citizens to be able to return to the life they had before the disaster, Hirono Town pays the closest attention to protecting their lives from the adverse health effects of radiation.

Meanwhile, as we face the fact that one in two people will develop cancer in their lifetime, the therapeutic utility of internal remedies using alpha-emitting nuclides has been confirmed. Alpha-emitting nuclides have a relatively short half-life (i.e., are short-lived) and have greater lethal effect on cells than beta- or gamma-emitting nuclides. Therefore, the development of therapeutic agents using alpha-emitting nuclides is now being rapidly accelerated around the world.

During this forum, we outlined technologies necessary for the development of such agents, including those for manufacturing alpha-emitting nuclides, establishing a drug delivery system and developing automated equipment. If Hirono Town becomes a center for related technologies and human resources in Japan and leads the world in developing internal radiation therapy using short-lived alpha-emitting nuclides, it will be able to pursue its commitment to protecting people’s lives, with a good chance to experience a great revival as a place where people’s activities shape the future.

6) Since the first forum, we have been committed to considering what we, as a disaster-affected town, should communicate to the outside and carrying out activities to look at the town from an outside perspective. For the 4th forum this year, fledgling artists from Tokyo created promotion videos set in Minamisouma City, Kawachi Village, and Hirono Town. We were surprised and moved by these videos, which showed us attractive features of the region we had not realized, displaying the unlimited potential video works possess.

Another artistic approach we have taken is to hold plays performed by students of Futaba Future High School. They have shown our current situation and challenges to the audience. The most important thing is to continue to conduct activities like these, in which people actually visit the disaster-hit areas, and come in contact with the residents and their lives there.

From the above lessons, we recognized the need to share information with other regions and enhance cooperation over a wider area to resolve each issue one by one, for which each local government had hitherto made its own efforts.

We should continue to send out our message from the disaster-affected areas in an appropriate manner because it is an important means to let people know about our situation.

October 15, 2017

International Forum “Message from Disaster Affected Areas”

Forum participants



OPENING CEREMONY

- ◎**Date/Time:** Thursday, October 12, 2017, 11:00–12:30
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**MC:** Mr. Kazuma Komatsu
(Reconstruction Planning Division, Hirono Town Office)
- ◎**Guests:**
 - Mr. Tadahiro Yokoyama, Director General of Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction and Revitalization, Reconstruction Agency
 - Mr. Osamu Sudo, Deputy Director-General, Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters
 - Mr. Shuzo Sasaki, Director of Soso District Promotion Bureau, Fukushima Prefecture
 - Mr. Yukiei Matsumoto, Chair of Futaba District Town and Village Assemblies
 - Mr. Mikio Kitago, Vice Chair of Hirono Town Assembly
- ◎**Number of Participants:** Approx. 130



1 Opening Address



Mr. Satoshi Endo

Mayor of Hirono Town

Six and a half years have passed since the disaster. To find some kind of answers or even hints on how we should work on reconstructing our hometown, we have organized conferences annually since 2014—in the form of an international symposium in 2014 and as an international forum since 2015, including this year.

What action should the disaster affected area take? To fight against two difficult issues—reputational damage and fading memories, I believe that sending out accurate information is important above all else. Since spring, when the evacuation order was lifted, Hirono Town has walked a long and arduous path, from restoration to reconstruction, and then to revitalization. To communicate our ongoing progress and our determination to promote reconstruction and revitalization by working hand in hand with other affected areas, we will hold this year's forum, the fourth of its kind, under the title "Message from Disaster Affected Areas."

This year, Hirono has made another steady step toward reconstruction. In addition to the opening of Baba Clinic, the construction of disaster recovery public housing was completed and the pedestrian bridge "Mirai no Kakehashi" was opened. Regarding educational facilities, satellite offices of three higher education institutions—Higashi Nippon International University; Waseda University; and the National Institute of Technology, Fukushima College—have been opened in the Futatsunuma Park Gallery.

We are now progressing step by step toward our next goals: full opening of the Joban Expressway, full-fledged opening of J-Village, opening of Futaba Future Combined Junior and Senior High School, and consolidation of kindergarten and nursery by certified childcare centers.

Through holding this forum every year, we aim to achieve our vision: "Protect Life, Engage People, Create the Future." "Protect Life" means not only enhancing healthcare and welfare services, but also spreading knowledge about radiation, which affects our health. "Engage People" means promoting the exchange of people and ideas within and outside the town. This forum is one such opportunity. "Create the Future" refers to fulfilling our responsibility of maintaining and nurturing our hometown's traditional cultures and old customs and passing them down to future generations.

I sincerely hope that this forum will be a fruitful and meaningful experience for you all, and that this event will continue to grow and thrive for years to come.

2

Guests' Addresses



Mr. Tadahiro Yokoyama

Director General of the Fukushima Bureau of Reconstruction and Revitalization,
Reconstruction Agency

I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations on holding the fourth International Forum in Hirono Town on such a large scale. I would also like to express my respect to all of you present here today for your continuous cooperation and efforts in reconstructing the affected areas.

It has been six and a half years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. I am aware that since relocating its office back to the town in March 2012, the Hirono Town government has vigorously worked on restoring public infrastructures and encouraging residents to return.

Thanks to such efforts, the development of disaster recovery public housing, commercial facilities and the station area has progressed steadily in Hirono, leading to the return of 4,000 residents, roughly 80 percent of the pre-disaster population. I feel greatly encouraged by the progress that has been achieved here in Hirono.

This year's forum takes place over four days. I hope that active discussions and exchanges will take place in the fields of regional culture, tourism exchange, and reconstruction, and that the outcomes of this forum will contribute to reconstructing and revitalizing the disaster-affected areas, leading to rediscovery and dissemination of unique treasures in the areas.

We in the Fukushima Bureau will work together with you to further accelerate the reconstruction and revitalization of disaster-affected areas. We sincerely ask for your continued understanding and cooperation.



Mr. Osamu Sudo

Deputy Director-General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters

Looking at the progress of reconstruction in Hirono Town, over 80 percent of Hirono residents have already returned to the town. On the east side of the station, collective housing units have been built and are rapidly being occupied. Industrial parks located in the Iwasawa area have attracted many companies. Furthermore, Hirono has been promoting collaboration with higher education institutions, including Higashi Nippon International University; Waseda University; and the National Institute of Technology, Fukushima College, whose representatives are present today. I feel that reconstruction is progressing steadily here in Hirono. This is due to the tireless efforts of Mayor Endo and everyone else concerned including town office staff, town assembly members, and residents.

We at the local response headquarters will further support Hirono Town's efforts in cooperation with the Reconstruction Agency and other national organizations.

I am really thrilled and excited to see the program of the International Forum. The program is filled with interesting sessions on familiar topics as well as critically important topics. Above all, I look forward to presentations by junior and senior high school students, who will lead the future. I believe that this forum will help powerfully drive the reconstruction of Hirono Town.



Mr. Shuzo Sasaki

Director of the Soso District Promotion Bureau, Fukushima Prefecture

Six years and seven months have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake. During this period, the Hirono Town government has focused on improving the living environment. In addition to quickly restoring infrastructure, the town government has undertaken various projects including construction of a new, publicly run shopping mall called Hirono Terrace and development of the area around Hirono Station. And, Hirono Town has entered a new phase in its reconstruction efforts. As illustrated by ongoing projects including collaboration with higher education institutions, such as Waseda University and Higashi Nippon International University, and preparations for reopening J-Village, Hirono Town's reconstruction and revitalization efforts are gathering momentum.

This is entirely due to the efforts and hard work of all those involved in the town's various reconstruction projects, including

OPENING SEREMONY

Mayor Endo, who has taken the lead in these efforts, town assembly members, town office staff, and the residents of Hirono Town. I would like once again to express my deepest respect for their dedicated efforts.

The International Forum, which marks its fourth appearance this year, has been held with the participation of domestic and international experts in various fields, aiming to envision the future of Hirono Town and Futaba District, help solve various problems faced by the disaster-affected areas and gain new insights and awareness, and disseminate accurate information both inside and outside Japan.

I would like to thank Hirono Town for taking the lead in facilitating discussions to find solutions to various issues facing the disaster-affected areas and in creating opportunities for exchange utilizing local resources.

We in the prefectural government will go all out in close cooperation with the national and local municipal governments to help reconstruct and revitalize the disaster-affected areas. We sincerely ask for your continued support.



Mr. Yukiei Matsumoto

Chair of Futaba District Town and Village Assemblie

It has been six years and seven 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.

This year, the evacuation order was lifted in Namie Town and Tomioka Town except difficult-to-return zones, on March 31 and April 1, respectively. The towns are 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. Namie and Tomioka Towns need cooperation from other municipalities, including Hirono Town. I encourage all the municipalities in Futaba District to work together toward reconstruction.

I sincerely hope that this forum will help people around the world understand the current state of Hirono Town and Futaba District and facilitate the resolution of various issues faced by disaster-affected municipalities, including eradication of reputational damage and passing-down of local culture. 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, Futaba’s eight municipalities will work together, in close cooperation with prefectural and national governments, while envisioning a bright future for Futaba District. We sincerely ask for your continued understanding and support.



Mr. Mikio Kitago

Vice Chair of Hirono Town Assembly

This year marks the fourth time that the International Forum has been held. The Forum held 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 on various issues that Hirono Town and Futaba District must address.

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 researchers, students and residents who have joined this forum 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 Town, but also for Futaba District and all other affected areas.

3 Other Invited Attendees

©Mr. Hiroshi Sawahara, Head of Okuma Town Iwaki Branch Office

©Mr. Koichi Takahashi, Vice Mayor of Tomioka Town

©Mr. Hiroshi Midorikawa, Chair of Educational Corporation Shouheikou

©Ms. Chikako Shio, Member of Hirono Town Assembly

©Mr. Takumi Monma, Member of Hirono Town Assembly

©Ms. Marie Momma, Member of Hirono Town Assembly

©Mr. Hiroshi Endo, Member of Hirono Town Assembly

©Mr. Michihiro Kitago, Member of Hirono Town Assembly

Opening session / Keynote address

ATTRACTION OF EXCAVATION IN EGYPT

◎**Date/Time:** Thursday, October 12, 2017; 11:00–12:30

◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center
(Main Conference Room)

◎**Lecturer:** Sakuji Yoshimura
(Higashi Nippon International University)

◎**Number of Participants:** Approx. 120



1 Outline

Part 1: Through excavation of Egypt's

Mr. Yoshimura spoke about how his experience of pursuing research into Egypt for many years overseas allowed him to increase his knowledge of what aspects of the cultures, histories, and religions of countries overseas and those of Japan are mutually influential and where differences lie between them. He then stressed the need for creating opportunities for many young people, foremost among them Futaba Future School students, to experience spending some time overseas.

Part 2: Fascination with conducting excavation in Egypt

The lecturer next moved on to explaining the time he came across the book “Tutankamen o no himitsu (The Tomb of Tutankhamen), which inspired him as a child to become an archaeologist, the difficulties that he had to overcome before he could make his first study trip to Egypt, and the sequence of events that led him to make more discoveries, including the Khufu ship, by using electromagnetic probes.

Mr. Yoshimura also offered his interpretation of the ancient Egyptian culture, while introducing participants to his archaeological discoveries.

2 Closing (summary)

Hirono Town has been collaborating with Higashi Nippon International University under a multi-area agreement concluded between the two sides in June 2014, and, in July 2017, the Hirono Center and the Fukushima Reconstruction Creation Laboratory were established at Higashi Nippon International University, which led to having the honor of welcoming President Yoshimura to this forum as the keynote speech lecturer.



Even though the opening session was held on a weekday, it welcomed an almost overwhelming number of participants, barely fitting into the conference room, who all listened intently to Mr. Yoshimura sharing his dreams, attractiveness and possibilities of unraveling the enduring mysteries of Egypt.

In closing his speech, Mr. Yoshimura expressed his thoughts on education and stressed the importance of encouraging young people to spend some time overseas, stating, “If we are to help people become globally competitive, we must help them pursue regional studies from a global perspective so that they will become able to tell others about their country’s cultural practices.”

Session 1

DISCUSSION ON THE DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR REACTORS

- ◎**Date/Time:** Thursday, October 12, 2017; 13:30–15:00
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**Lecturer:** Hajimu Yamana
(Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning
Facilitation Corporation [NDF])
- ◎**Number of Participants:** Approx. 100



1 Overview

Part 1: Current state of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

With the help of video footage, Mr. Yamana described the sequence of events since the Fukushima nuclear accident up to the present.

Part 2: Efforts put into decommissioning the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

- (1) The lecturer explained the processes that decommissioning the Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant would require, by contrasting them with the decommissioning process of general nuclear power plants.
- (2) He next described a system comprising the government, Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), and the NDF, and each organization's role in working toward decommissioning the Daiichi power plant. The NDF described its role as a decommissioning office that supports TEPCO in instituting measures under the guidance of the government.
- (3) The lecturer then stated that the task is to greatly reduce the risk of radiation leakage, adding that their short-term objectives are to institute measures against contaminated water and to remove spent fuel from the plant's pools, and that their long-term objective is to remove every piece of fuel debris from the reactors to ensure stability.
- (4) There was also an account of measures taken against contaminated water, which comprised descriptions of underground water bypassing, asphalt facing of the Daiichi power plant site, subdrain boring, and ice-wall water blocking. In addition, easy-to-understand explanations were given regarding the structures of containment vessels and pressure vessels and what fuel debris is.

Part 3: Briefing on the International Forum on the Decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

Mr. Yamana gave a briefing on the 2nd International Forum on the Decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station held in July with the aim of sharing information on the decommissioning process with the local community. The booklet "Voice from Fukushima," containing a briefing on round-table sessions held some days prior to the forum, was given to all participants so that everyone could share their community members' opinions and questions expressed during the sessions.

2 Closing (summary)

In closing the session, Mr. Yamana stated: "What will become important from here on is effective management of the decommissioning project, and to achieve successful implantation of the project, information exchange must take place between the NDF and everyone in the local region. In addition, as the president of the NDF, I hope to welcome as many participants as possible to the International Forum on the Decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station to be held at the Naraha Town Community Center in 2018. I sincerely hope that this session has contributed to today's international forum by enhancing everyone's understanding of the efforts currently being put into decommissioning the Daiichi power plant. Last but not least, I look forward to participating in more of these forums and to communicating more with all of you. Thank you very much for listening."

Session 2

EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND EXPLANATION OF WILDLIFE DAMAGE CONTROL

- ◎**Date/Time:** Thursday, October 12, 2017; 15:00–16:30
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Small Conference Room)
- ◎**Lecturers:** Tadayuki Ide (Futaba Agriculture Promotion Sector)
Tsukasa Ono (Hama Agricultural Regeneration Research Centre, Agricultural Technology Centre)
- ◎**Number of Participants:** Approx. 20



1 Overview

Part 1: Fukushima’s ecosystem of wildlife (Ono)

With the help of video footage, Mr. Ono explained the capacities and characteristics, including the body lengths, intelligence, visual acuity, and diets, of the following wild animals causing damage to agriculture in Fukushima Prefecture: wild boar, Asian black bear, sika deer, masked palm civet, raccoon, and Japanese raccoon dog.

Part 2: Measures for preventing wild animals from causing damage (Ide)

Mr. Ide suggested creating an environment unfavorable to wild animals by taking the following actions: 1) preventing them from coming near agricultural fields, 2) removing all potential food sources, 3) building fences around fields, 4) capturing wild animals that cause damage, and 5) establishing a comprehensive system involving all community members.

2 Closing (summary)

In closing their session, the lecturers stressed the importance for local farmers and community members to collaborate on preventing wild animals from causing damage to agricultural fields by following the five steps described below:

- (1) identify the type of wild animal that is causing damage to your community’s agricultural fields and conduct research into its capacities and characteristics (i.e. know your enemy);
- (2) identify the range of damaged agricultural land and the degree of damage (i.e. know your own state);
- (3) dispose of fruit and vegetable waste properly (i.e. remove potential food sources);
- (4) build fences, do not leave abandoned agricultural land unattended, and keep areas between wildlife habitats and agricultural fields under surveillance (i.e. protect your territory); and
- (5) cooperate with hunters (i.e. attack your enemy).

Session 3

ATTRACTION OF THE COASTAL REGION AND CYCLING TOURISM

- ◎ **Date/Time:** Friday, October 13, 2017; 10:30–12:00
- ◎ **Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎ **Coordinator:** Masayuki Noda (Minami-Aizu Support Club)
- ◎ **Panelists:** Kazuya Sato (Hirono Town)
 Daiki Kujiraoka (Naraha Town)
 Takanori Shima (Katsurao Village)
- ◎ **Number of Participants:** 30



1 Overview

Part 1: Discussion on cycling tourism (Minami Aizu)

Mr. Noda, who founded the Minami-Aizu Support Club with the aim of developing the local region by promoting cycling tourism, explained the elements that he considered to be most important for promoting cycling tourism in the region (i.e. the aim, regional characteristics, the sustainability of cycling programs, and promotion).

Part 2: Description of a cycling program by a club member (Hirono)

Mr. Sato described his experience of participating last year in one of the club's programs, Cycling Program to Enjoy the Autumnal Tints in Naraha Town and Hirono Town, saying, "I realized the pleasure of feeling seasonal currents of air I had been unaware of in my daily life."

Part 3: Reconstruction and cycling (Naraha)

Mr. Kujiraoka introduced participants to another aspect of cycling programs: new opportunities with the potential for all people, ranging from the young to the elderly, to, while enjoying them, rebuild their friendships that may have been destroyed by the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear power plant disaster.

Part 4: Cycling as regional development projects (Katsurao)

Mr. Shima introduced participants to the following projects: 1) the Katsurao Circle Meeting project, which puts efforts into collecting opinions from non-villagers on the attractiveness of Katsurao to promote the village, creating more opportunities for its villagers to interact with non-villagers, and increasing the number of returnees to the village; and 2) the Tour de Katsurao project, a large cycling event aimed at promoting the attractiveness of the village.

2 Closing (summary)

Since the Hamadori coastal region, where Hirono Town Community Center stands, may not necessarily be ideal for cycling, we were worried whether anyone would come to this session. However, the session turned out to be a greater success than we could have hoped for, filling 90 percent of the main conference room with participants who devoted rapt attention to both the lecturers and the handouts for each lecture.

Hirobo, Yuzutaro, and Shimi-chan, mascot characters representing the lecturers' towns and village, made an appearance at the venue, enlivening the session. The lecturers seemed to have generated more than just interest in the participants, since many of them responded "Yes" to one of this session's survey questions asking whether they wanted to attend the club's programs, i.e. a firm indication of having been powerfully motivated.

During the session, proposals for transcending current regional boundaries to collaborate on a broader scale were put forward by both the lecturers and the participants.

Session 4

HIRONO, HOMETOWN OF CHILDREN’S SONGS –CHILDREN’S SONGS AND MENTAL RESTORATION–

- ◎**Date/Time:** Friday, October 13, 2017; 13:30–15:00
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**Lecturer:** Mikio Ito (composer and permanent director of the Association of Children’s Song Writers in Japan)
- ◎**Speakers:** Mikio Ito (composer and permanent director of the Association of Children’s Song Writers in Japan)
Katsuji Tanihira (chairman of the Executive Committee of Town Planning with Children’s Song)
Yuika Sekine (member of the Committee for Developing Hirono Town with Children’s Songs)
Hirofumi Nakatsu (manager of the Hirono Town Reconstruction Planning Division)
- ◎**Facilitator:** Kanako Abe (representative of the Hirono Town Reconstruction Planning Division)
- ◎**Number of Participants:** 50



1 Overview

Part 1: Lecture by Mr. Mikio Ito

Taking this occasion of 2018 marking the 100th anniversary of the origination of the Japanese children’s song genre with the first issue of Akai tori children’s literary magazine having been published in 1918, I would like to introduce everyone today to the magnificence of Japanese children’s songs.

Children’s songs never explicitly state such expressions as “Thank you” and “I love you.” They also differ from songs with slogans in that they never try to encourage listeners to do something by conveying such messages as “Dreams come true.”

The message in Hakushu Kitahara’s Akaitori kotori (“Red Birds, Little Birds”) is that human beings are also susceptible to what they choose to watch or eat. Yaso Saijo’s Kanariya (Canary) conveys that, regardless of whatever situation you may be in, hope for a remedy always lies in finding the right environment for yourself, a lesson I believe also applies to today’s issue of bullying. Michio Mado’s Zosan (Elephant) is about DNA passed down from parent to child and, by singing about the long noses of elephants, teaches about the hypostasis that nature only passes down specific traits that it knows are indispensable.

Although messages carried by children’s songs may not emerge so clearly since composers express them inexplicitly, such songs always do carry some message.

Hirono Town produces new children’s songs through its good-faith efforts. Of all municipalities in Japan, those that hold contests for lyric writers of children’s songs include only Tatsuno City in Hyogo and Hirono Town. I look forward to collaborating with Hirono Town on enhancing such good-faith efforts as a means of fostering children’s aesthetic appreciation.

Part 2: Open discussion on Hirono Town and Children’s Songs

Q. Mr. Ito, Hirono Town has the honor of welcoming you to its children’s song festival every year; what would you say the festival’s attractiveness is?

A. The children’s songs that Hirono Town creates have interesting lyrics and great music. These children’s songs produced in the Heisei period (i.e. after 1989) will also become assets of society. With 2018 marking the 100th anniversary of the origination of Japanese children’s songs, I cannot help but ask myself what actions we should take in the next 100 years to keep fostering the culture of children’s songs. I would like all of us here today to think of a way to effectively collaborate on promoting the children’s songs of Tatsuno City and Hirono Town under the title “The Heisei Red Bird Movement of Heisei Period.”

Q. Mr. Tanihara, you have been serving as a member of the Committee for Developing Hirono Town with Children’s Songs for many years; what are your thoughts on Hirono as a hometown of children’s songs?

A. I would like to enliven the children’s song festival a little more and also attract more participants from the local community. I believe that “persistence pays off”; so, I will continue my efforts with persistence.

Q. Ms. Sekine, what have children’s songs meant to young people such as yourself?

A. When I was in junior high school, we had many opportunities to sing children’s songs during class, especially songs deeply

rooted in our community. However, I personally think that schools should teach more children's songs. Although some people say that pop songs are better than children's songs, I believe that children's songs can support us spiritually.

Q. Mr. Nakatsu, you have been taking part in organizing the children's song festival ever since the first one; what ideas did you have back then and what are your current thoughts on the festival?

A. My initial idea was to organize a festival based on my educational philosophy of "Develop Hirono into a town imbued with culture." Back then, since none of us in Hirono Town had any clue as to what would work, it took trying everything any of us could think of to put this festival together. However, I currently feel that maybe the festival is becoming too standardized. I am not saying that change is always right, but I wonder whether we are currently doing what is best for our festival.

Q. What can Hirono Town do to develop its children's song festival even further?

- I believe we are taking in opinions from too many people, which may be preventing us from enhancing the quality of the festival beyond average. Perhaps we could set up, for instance, a producers system, under which we could select a certain number of people and entrust the administration of the festival with them.
- Although we obviously could not have started up the festival without the generous help from the Hirono Town government, I believe that from here on we need to carry the responsibility of enlivening our festival.
- I do not think the Committee for Developing Hirono Town with Children's Songs is ready to administer the festival all by itself. Perhaps it is best for the festival to continue having the Town government jointly administer the festival to some degree.
- The same people are serving on the committee every year. I believe we can organize a much better festival if something could be done about that.
- The reason I joined the committee was that I wanted to know more about children's songs. Now that I know the great healing power of children's songs, I recommend promoting that aspect to improve the festival.
- Although we see that progress has indeed been made in reconstructing the local region, the spiritual damage inflicted on the local residents still remains. I believe that helping Hirono's residents heal their souls is an unfinished job of the Town government. Therefore, I recommend that all members of Hirono, including Town government officials, work together towards developing their festivals, the community's traditional culture, and the children's song festival.
- No other country in the world creates as many songs for children as Japan does. Perhaps this could be because of the beauty of the language and the way that Japanese people think. Songs become most needed when people feel sad and lonely. Through healing people living in disaster areas and their souls, I want to lead to developing the festival.

Part 3: Q&A session

One of the questions from the floor was "On what dates will the next Children's Songs Summit be held, because it has not been held since last hosted by Toyama Prefecture," which was answered as follows: "With the size of the summit having grown extremely large, none of its member local governments currently have a big enough budget for hosting the summit, and already the Summit is only capable of continuingly ensuring secure protection of its current members' personal information." However, Mr. Ito also added, "Since 2018 is a particularly special year marking the 100th anniversary of the origination of Japanese children's songs, although it would be impossible to hold another of these international forums in the same year, the Association of Children's Song Writers in Japan does hope to resume the summit."

2 Closing (summary)

- This session gave Hirono Town its very first opportunity to openly discuss children's songs. Although the Children's Song Festival has established itself as part of the life of Hirono's residents, aside from the festival, residents have very few chances to become involved with children's songs, which may be one of the reasons that only a few of them show interest or participate in the committee.
- Mr. Ito's lecture taught us about the depths and truths hidden in children's songs, helping us review the appeal of the genre. In addition, from the perspectives of an association and committee members and Town officials, in the open discussion, the lecturer and speakers shared their thoughts with participants on the current state of the children's song festival and the challenges that must be overcome.
- With the 100th anniversary of the origination of Japanese children's songs approaching, the Association of Children's Song Writers in Japan is greatly indebted to Hirono Town for making this session possible. The thoughts that were shared between the lecturer, speakers, and participants will be incorporated into the upcoming 2018 children's song festival, to promote "Hirono, hometown of children's songs," even more widely and pass down the culture of the Town.

Session 5

J-VILLAGE –FOOTBALL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT–

- ◎**Date/Time:** Saturday, October 14, 2017; 10:00–12:00
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**Coordinator:** Nobuo Shimazaki (Sousou Area Support Satellite, Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization)
- ◎**Panelists:** Shunsuke Ono (Japan Football Village)
Masahiro Matsumoto (Naraha Town)
Kazuya Sato (Hirono Town)
- ◎**Number of Participants:** 20

**1 Overview****Part 1: Revitalization of Japan Football Village (J-Village) and J-Village’s role in the local community (Mr. Ono representing J-Village)**

As a representative of J-Village, which started conducting business operations with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association 15 years ago, today I would like to speak about the revitalization of Hirono and Naraha towns and about J-Village’s projects aimed at helping the local region develop even further.

For J-Village to be able to finally say, “We are back in business,” there still remains one more objective that needs to be achieved, i.e. to host the All-Japan Boys Football Championship as it has before. J-Village is currently conducting business negotiations on hosting five events including national-level soccer tournaments in 2019.

The Japan Professional Football League is considering changing its regular season from the current spring–fall system to a fall–spring one. If this change does take place, J-Village’s all-season soccer field is guaranteed to draw national attention.

J-Village was founded with the principle of welcoming soccer players of all backgrounds, ranging from professionals representing Japan to amateurs, foremost among them residents of Hirono and Naraha towns, and that principle continues to be its fundamental aim. As one of its new plans, J-Village is currently exploring possibilities for serving as a venue for other sports events and music concerts, i.e. concerts with high potential for attracting customers.

Part 2: Plans for connecting more with the community (Mr. Matsumoto representing Naraha Town)

J-Village has always been one of the region’s facilities with which I felt a close tie. In 2002, the local community was greatly enlivened, when J-Village served as the Argentine national team’s training camp site. My friend’s grandmother even asked one of the soccer players representing Argentina to sign his autograph on the back of a receipt.

While I have always viewed J-Village as having a welcoming atmosphere, J-Village may have seemed rather unapproachable, perhaps for elderly members of the community, especially if they have never been in contact with sports. As J-Village’s new strategy, in the post-earthquake days, it set up a fitness club in a temporary accommodation unit in the hope of welcoming such community members so that it could demonstrate its friendliness, which I believe worked well.

The presence of the Japan Football Academy (JFA) and the local community’s women soccer players who became candidates for the women’s national team inspired me as a child, clearing my vision for the future. I believe that J-Village brings fresh wind to this town like a window that helps expanding our vision of future.

I look forward to one day seeing J-Village serving as an even more amiable place for community members to gather, for instance, for events on sports day and soccer games between the two towns or leagues, helping all of us find and pursue our dreams.

(Mr. Sato representing Hirono Town)

As was mentioned in the case of Naraha Town, Hirono was also greatly invigorated during the time J-Village served as the Argentine team’s training camp site in 2002. Jointly hosting Portuguese language classes and public screenings established close ties between Hirono Town’s community members and J-Village. We also jointly offered soccer practice sessions and swimming lessons.

I had a number of opportunities to collaborate with J-Village and TEPCO Mareeze on organizing soccer events and matches, during which I felt the entire Futaba District come together.

Hirono Town Hall and J-Village are currently setting up a project for selling polo shirts featuring J-Village’s logo to raise enough money for making donations. I look forward to helping develop more projects that can bring J-Village and Hirono closer together.

Hirono Town used to serve as home to the JFA’s boys dormitory, and so I also look forward to supporting children who graduate from Hirono Municipal Junior High School in growing into athletes who can compete in international soccer games.

Part 3: Ideas shared with community members (Mr. Shimazaki)

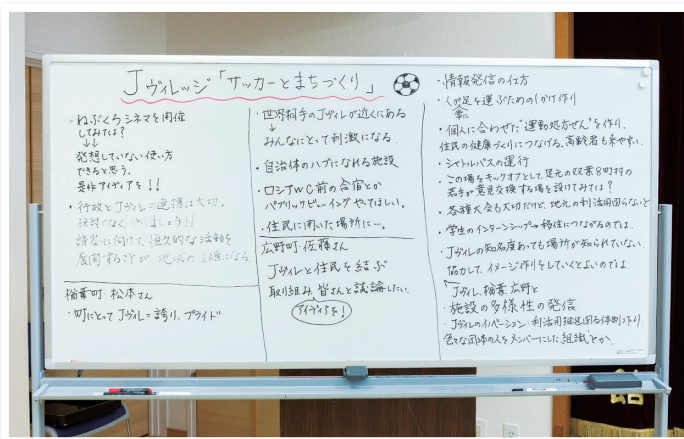
- J-Village should consider creating more added value, foremost in areas not relating to sports.
- Perhaps the fitness club needs more diversity in its programs. For instance, it could try customizing its programs so that elderly members of the community can also use the club.
- Maybe operating a bus service to J-Village would be helpful for people who do not drive cars.
- Perhaps the towns can prepare local specialties for J-Village to offer.
- Offering an internship program welcoming participants also from outside the towns would be a good way to promote the conviviality of J-Village, and may even lead to attracting people to relocate to the towns.
- I hear that many people outside Fukushima have heard of J-Village but do not know its location. So, the towns should collaborate with J-Village on promoting themselves as well.
- We should publicize how J-Village can respond to needs for multi-purpose use, since doing so will also urge ourselves to keep putting efforts into thinking up new ideas for responding to such needs.

2 Closing (summary)

The idea of supporting J-Village in its projects aiming to raise money does not conflict with our aim of creating more opportunities for community members to interact with people outside Fukushima. Both are oriented towards the same goal. While J-Village implements its projects to bring in profits, from the perspective of community representatives, town officials must formulate strategies for increasing interaction between local residents and people outside Fukushima, with both J-Village and town officials discussing how they can collaborate to bring success to the community.

J-Village is a symbol of the community. It has the potential for serving as a hub, with its facilities having the capacity to not only host sports events but also cultural and artistic festivals.

What needs to be done from here on is to continue identifying any issues that may have been overlooked and, if any arise, keep resolving each and every one of them until such efforts reach fruition with the completion of community reconstruction and J-Village revitalization.



Session 6

REPORT ON THE OVERSEAS TRAINING RECEIVED BY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM HIRONO TOWN –LEARNING FROM CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES–

- ◎**Date/Time:** Sunday, October 15, 2017; 9:00–11:00
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎**Facilitator:** Masaki Fujimoto (Glocal Earth Co., Ltd.)
- ◎**Presenters:** Group of 2nd-year students from Hirono Municipal Junior High School
- ◎**Number of Participants:** 20



1 Overview

Part 1: Presentations

Presenters spoke about the following experiences, which they enjoyed during their training program: 1) on-site agricultural education at Ogi’s Farm, owned and operated by a Japanese couple, 2) the time they spent with their host family, and 3) opportunities of communicating in English with their Canadian Buddy supporters.

Part 2: Session for junior high school students and international students to share their thoughts

The junior high school students split into groups and, with a number of international students, discussed what differences they noticed between countries overseas and Japan (level 1). Subsequently, they discussed what cultural practices of the international students’ countries can be effectively adopted in Japan (level 2).

Part 3: Student presentations on changes the training program instilled in them

Students presented a number of differences and similarities between Japan and Canada, the host country of the training program, focusing on the food, climate, culture, and nature of Canada and on the national characteristics of Canadians.

Part 4: Q&A session following the presentations

Q. The absence of vending machines was presented as a big difference between the two countries; what could the reason for that absence be?

A. It could be so as not to ruin the cityscape, or maybe it prevents crime.

Q. Which type of lifestyle do you like better: Canadian or Japanese lifestyle?

A. Each has its own advantage: Canadians have a better family relationship; whereas, in Japan, we get to have more time to ourselves.

Q. Can everyone get along well with people who follow religions different from each of your own?

A. We all agreed during our discussions that we want to learn about the differences between other people’s religions and our own ones.

Q. What was the biggest challenge all or many of you experienced when communicating with, for example, each of your host family’s members or Canadian Buddy supporter?

A. The biggest challenge for us all was that everyone else around us spoke in English, which of course we gradually got used to.

2 Closing (summary)

The session provided Hirono Municipal Junior High School students with great opportunities to present their experiences to participants from outside their school. In addition, the group discussions with the international students helped the junior high school students deepen their thoughts on the differences between countries overseas and Japan and also on the positive aspects of all of the students’ countries.

Session 7

CURRENT SITUATION OF AND OUTLOOK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW THERAPEUTIC AGENTS USING SHORT-LIVED, ALPHA-EMITTING NUCLIDES

- ◎**Date/Time:** Sunday, October 15, 2017; 10:00–12:00
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Gymnasium (Meeting Room)
- ◎**Coordinator:** Yoichiro Wada
(Isotope Science Center, The University of Tokyo)
- ◎**Panelists:** Akira Sugiyama
(Isotope Science Center, The University of Tokyo)
Yuji Kuge
(Central Institute of Isotope Science, Hokkaido University)
Noboru Oriuchi (Fukushima Medical University)
Masatoshi Tsuchiya (Yamato Scientific Co., Ltd.)
Daisuke Kato (Yamato Scientific Co., Ltd.)
- ◎**Number of Participants:** 25



1 Overview

Part 1: Drug delivery of alpha radiopharmaceuticals (Sugiyama)

When treating cancer with anti-cancer drugs, since such drugs could also affect normal cells around the targeted area, administration must accurately be aimed at the targeted area. This is why there came to be today's drug delivery systems, which make it possible to treat cancer by delivering drugs to only the areas that need treatment. Of the four types of radiation, alpha, beta, gamma, and neutron, alpha radiation has the lowest penetration depth and can, therefore, be stopped even with a single piece of paper. Despite its low penetration depth, alpha radiation has a substantial amount of energy powerful enough to destroy both spiral strands of DNA and can, therefore, serve as a lethal weapon against cancer cells. For the above reasons, alpha radiation has been receiving great attention recently as a possibility for treating cancer.

Alpha radiopharmaceuticals are delivered to the targeted area by conjugating antibody molecules that recognize cancer cells as antigens with radionuclides. When doing so, to prevent the biologically destructive radioactive source from freely moving around the body longer than necessary, administration follows a two-step treatment procedure known as the Cupid-psyche drug delivery system, where identification of the area to be targeted comes first and then follows delivery of the drug.

Studies are currently being carried out to develop treatment methods using alpha radiation to reduce the risk of adverse effects from cancer therapy.

Part 2: What is radionuclide therapy (Kuge)

Cancer treatment methods can be broadly categorized into surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy. In radionuclide therapy, microspheres containing radioactive elements delivered through ingestion control or kill cancer cells from inside the body with radiation. In other words, radionuclide therapy is a combination of radiation therapy and chemotherapy, which relieves the patient of the burden that accompanies surgery.

Gamma rays are used for diagnostic purposes, since they have a higher penetrating power than do alpha and beta rays, which are mainly used for treating purposes. Certain types of compounds accumulate in certain parts of the body. For instance, because related to the essential bone-forming element "calcium," strontium chloride (^{89}Sr), a strontium-based beta-ray emitting compound, has a characteristic of accumulating in the bones. In addition, since iodine accumulates in the thyroid gland, sodium iodide (^{131}I) helps cure Grave's disease completely.

As does ^{89}Sr , radium-223 chloride—an alpha-emitting nuclide—accumulates in the bones and works very effectively in treating cancer because it exerts a powerful effect on malignant cells with its very short range of radiation.

Most types of radiation that can be precisely targeted at treating only malignant cells do not occur naturally. Therefore, more research needs to be conducted to design and develop chemical compounds and molecules.

Part 3: Automated purification systems (Tsuchiya & Kato)

Companies are increasingly shifting toward reducing costs while expanding manufacturing capacity by replacing people with systems comprising multi-joint arm-robot apparatuses to perform analytical experiments in research divisions and also quality control checks in manufacturing facilities.

Robotic systems are also expected to become available for producing astatine (^{211}At), an alpha-emitting nuclide, which, once available, will not only increase productivity but also enhance the safety of workers.

Part 4: Development of radiation-therapy methods for curing cancer (Oriuchi)

In its Annual Report 2010, the National Cancer Center Japan estimates that 60 percent of men and 45 % of women contract cancer at least once in their life.

Radionuclides are useful in treating cancer, giving diagnoses, and conducting medical research. By having patients ingest small doses of radiopharmaceuticals to allow measurements of their radioactivity levels to be performed, single-photon emission computed tomography technology can process tomographic information of not only patients' lesions but also metabolic information.

While more radiation-therapy methods are being developed to treat thyroid cancer with radionuclide pharmaceuticals, cancer-diagnosis wait times are lengthening, leading to cases indicating that the longer diagnoses take the higher the risks of negative prognoses grow.

Fukushima Medical University has two particle accelerators—one small, another medium-size—for producing radionuclides and is the only teaching hospital that owns a medium-size accelerator capable of producing alpha-emitting nuclides in Japan. From here on, the University aims at becoming Japan's research base for developing radionuclide pharmaceuticals.

2 Closing (summary)

In Japan, strict regulations are imposed on radiation therapy, and research into drug delivery systems is progressing faster than that into drug development. Since alpha-emitting radionuclides have recently been recognized as possessing great potential for treating cancer effectively, it is extremely important that research be pursued, especially in disaster stricken areas, foremost Hirono Town and other parts of Fukushima.

We hope that this session helped participants enhance their knowledge of unsealed source radiotherapy as a new option for treating cancer.

Session 8

WHAT DOES RESTORATION MEAN FOR US ? —THINKING ABOUT RESTORATION BASED ON OUR SIX-AND-A-HALF-YEAR REBUILDING EFFORT—

- ◎**Date/Time:** Friday, October 15, 2017; 13:00–14:30
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Gymnasium (Meeting Room)
- ◎**Coordinator:** Akira Takagi (Kumamoto Gakuen University)
- ◎**Panelists:** Tamaki Honda
(Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization)
Maki Tsuboi
(Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization)
Yoichi Iijima (Hirono Town official)
- ◎**Number of Participants:** 20



1 Overview

Part 1: Each panelist's idea on the ultimate goal of reconstructing Fukushima (Honda)

At the time when the Great East Japan Earthquake struck, I was working in an office for supporting children in small groups at one of Fukushima Prefecture's elementary schools. Although the word "reconstruction" may sound as if the process is completed when a specific goal has been achieved, I believe that there can be multiple goals of reconstructing a region depending on the perspective from which goals are set. In the case of Fukushima, goals may differ for residents, teachers, and people outside the prefecture and, if so, so would views on whether or not reconstruction has been achieved. Today, I would like to state my view from the perspective of a children's supporter.

In Minamisoma City, a child suffers from traumatic hearing loss after being struck by a tsunami wave. In Iwaki City, the disastrous earthquake caused a child traumatic mutism, which was so severe that the child was about to be sent to a special school. In another case, a child who was mentally healthy all the while at an evacuation center, became truant after returning from the center and started experiencing self-harming urges. The disaster and subsequent changes in the children's surroundings created stress and anxiety. Some children are mentally unstable while some others struggle to cope with the aftermath, which is why, from my perspective as a children's supporter, I cannot yet say that Fukushima has been completely reconstructed.

(Tsuboi)

I will describe a number of aspects of the reconstruction process of Fukushima from three perspectives. The first aspect views the process from my perspective as a current resident of Fukushima. Over the years since the earthquake, the concept of reconstruction has ceased to come to my mind. Examining the concept from my second perspective as a regional revitalization supporter, I see reconstruction as an action to keep taking until the goals of all others are achieved. From my third perspective, I have explored the meaning of reconstruction for former residents of Fukushima City or other areas of the prefecture and arrived at the following conclusion: reconstruction, in this sense, is to first support current residents of Fukushima in revitalizing their communities not only for themselves but also for the day their former community members may return and to then promote the attractiveness of Fukushima's revitalized communities.

(Iijima)

I would like to speak about what reconstruction of Fukushima means to me as a Hirono Town official. At first, I did not care much about the percentage of returnees to the town. Even before the earthquake struck, Hirono was a small town of about 5,000 residents. Therefore, rather than encouraging former residents to come back, I chose to help the town revitalize itself little by little.

I know that there are people who do not like the word "reconstruction." I assume that is because, no matter how further reconstruction may progress, the town will never return to its exact same state as before. That is why I focus my efforts on developing projects that, even under the Town's current situation, can nevertheless elucidate Hirono's attractiveness.

People have their own values; so, I believe that everyone's perspective should be taken into consideration in setting the goals for reconstructing Hirono Town.

Part 2: Thoughts shared from the floor following the lectures by the panelists

- I learned that the state that reconstructing an area creates is not its former one, and that reconstruction can only take place when the residents become stronger and smarter.
- Some local governments no longer use the word "reconstruction." I believe they have moved on from considering their municipality as a disaster-stricken area, from which I learned that we must stop depending on others to improve our own life.
- I learned that we must stop thinking that we have privileges as citizens of a disaster-stricken prefecture.
- I believe that reconstruction will be completed only when all schools, kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools, reopen. Therefore, I learned that, to achieve what I believe is the truly reconstructed state of Fukushima, what the prefecture needs is development based on strong selling points, not reconstruction.
- What crossed my mind was, "Will attracting people with some appealing features of Fukushima's towns get them to move into the prefecture really complete reconstruction?"

2 Closing (summary)

What did the disastrous earthquake rob us of, and what does Fukushima need to create to reconstruct itself? This is only an opinion, but perhaps if we made this prefecture into a safe place to live, would that not mean reconstructing Fukushima? I believe that one of the goals we can achieve by doing so is putting an end to our belief that the earthquake adversely affected us.

Efforts must be made to keep a record of the past six years of Fukushima and its current endeavor to reconstruct itself and to pass them down by word of mouth so that the experience of Fukushima will not be forgotten.

From here on, we must have a talk about the meaning of word “Victims of Disaster” and deepen understanding ourselves.

Session 9 & 10

PRESENTATIONS OF THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT “EXPLORATION FOR CREATING THE FUTURE” & DRAMA “ANOHI KAKURETA HI” (I HID THAT DAY)

- ◎ **Date/Time:** Sunday, October 15, 2017; 13:00–16:00
- ◎ **Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Main Conference Room)
- ◎ **Coordinator:** Nobuo Sato (Futaba Future High School)
- ◎ **Presenters:** Research teams of Futaba Future High School
3rd-year students who conducted studies into creations for the future
Futaba Future High School’s drama club members
- ◎ **Number of Participants:** 70



1 Overview

Part 1: Presentations on studies into creations for the future

Second- and 3rd-year students at Futaba Future High School are currently conducting research into regional revitalization by collaborating with companies, universities, and NPOs, to put their findings into practice. In this session, six student-research teams explained their research activities and presented proposals to Hirono Town.

(1) Welfare and health team

Training Programs for Cultivating Care Workers; Kodokushi (passing away without anyone at one’s deathbed) in Futaba District in the Aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake (Reina Sekine)

(2) Sports and health team

Developing the Region by Generating Electricity Using Renewable Energy with a Focus on the Arena of J-Village Stadium (Rikuto Kusano & Atsushi Maeda)

(3) Agribusiness team

Making Hirono Town Full of Golden Rayed Lilies (Momoka Takano & Nao Yokozawa)

Preparing School Meals with Local Ingredients to See Children in Naraha Town Smile (Yushin Ota & Katsuya Suzuki)

(4) Renewable energy team

Pursuing the Ideal Form of Human Society and Sustainable Global Environment and Their Interrelations with Energy by Studying the Possibilities of Vibration-powered Generators, Passive House Standards, and the Electricity Generation Power of Plants (Tomohiro Kimura & Ayaka Takahashi)

SIDE EVENTS & INTERACTIVE EVENTS

(5) Social media communication team

Investigating the Impact Information Has on Society and the Mechanisms of Reputation Development and Loss by Tweeting and Analyzing Messages Tweeted by Others and Posting Videos on Twitter (Haruto Nemoto)

(6) Enhancing nuclear preparedness team

Farmers Market Futaba Project—Exploring Possibilities for Regional Development with Agriculture, Creation of a New Social System, and Reconstruction of a Lost Community (Sayaka Matsumoto)

Part 2: Drama “Anohi Kakureta Hi” (I hid that day)

Futaba Future High School’s club members performed a play they created themselves. It was their newest play, a realistic portrayal of earthquake victims being bullied. Even though it was their very first performance of the play, they effectively conveyed the inhumanity of discriminating and holding prejudices against anyone.

2 Closing (summary)

I believe this session provided students with great educational opportunities. On the first floor of the community center, the agribusiness team gave guests free bulbs of the golden rayed lily, Hirono Town’s floral emblem, and in return received words of encouragement.

In the community center’s parking lot, students in the School’s agricultural course sold hamburgers prepared and cooked themselves, which sold out in a matter of minutes; students in the commercial course sold sweets made by high school students living in Fukushima Prefecture’s Hamadori coastal region and pears cultivated by farmers in Okuma Town.

This session allowed Futaba Future High School to strengthen its partnership with Hirono Town by collaborating with the Town’s Natural Disaster Emergency Section on helping students develop plans for enhancing Hirono’s disaster preparedness and developing its community, and by presenting Hirono’s Reconstruction Planning Division with students’ proposals for regional revitalization policies.

SIDE EVENTS

◎SCREENING OF VIDEO WORKS ON THE THEME OF HIRONO TOWN

- ◎**Date/Time:** October 12 (Fri.), 13 (Sat.), and 15 (Sun.), 2017
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Training Room 1)
- ◎**Producers:** Akira Takagi (Kumamoto Gakuen University)
- ◎**Panelists:** 1st-year Hirono Junior High School students
Creative Summer Camp participants

1 Screening of educational videos works produced by Hirono Junior High School students

Part 1: Overview

First-year Hirono Junior High School students put on screenings of their video works they produced as part of a program designed to help them in the following ways: 1) enhancement of their understanding of Hirono Town by having them conduct activities, and 2) acquirement of media literacy so that they will know the proper ways to access, analyze, evaluate, and create media content when communicating via the media.



2 Creative Summer Camp

Part 1: Overview

Camp participants put on screenings of their promotional video works, each about 30 seconds long, on their thoughts about Soso District (i.e. Kawauchi Village, Hirono Town, and Minamisoma City), which came to their mind while participating in a two-night, three-day program held in Minamisoma City for young artists under 29.

Part 2: Video works

All video works, including five promoting Hirono Town, can be viewed anytime on YouTube.

◎INFORMATION ON RADIATION MONITORING IN HIRONO TOWN

- ◎**Date/Time:** October 12 (Fri.), 13 (Sat.), and 15 (Sun.), 2017
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Training Room 1)
- ◎**Host:** Hirono Town Hall (Radiation Counseling Room,
Health and Welfare Section)

Part 1: Overview

Panels offering information about Hirono Town’s radiation levels were displayed to help participants improve their knowledge on radiation, and booklets including Messages from the Radiation Counseling Room were handed out.



◎EXHIBITION OF DINOSAUR FOSSILS

- ◎**Date/Time:** All year round annually
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Entrance hall)
- ◎**Host:** Hirono Town Board of Education

Part 1: Overview

Hirono Town has a stratum from the Late Cretaceous epoch (80,000,000 years ago), from which fossils of vegetation-grazing dinosaurs belonging to the Hadrosauridae family (nicknamed Hironoryu) were found. In the entrance hall of the Hirono Town Hall stands a replica of the skeletal remains of a Tsintaosaurus, which also belongs to the Hadrosauridae family, promoting that the Town used to be home to this family of dinosaurs.

During this forum, fossils preserved by Hirono Town were displayed in the entrance hall of the community center and a video was played, showing the reconstruction process of the Town’s Tsintaosaurus specimen.



◎PRACTICE SALE OF AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS BY FUTABA FUTURE HIGH SCHOOL

- ◎**Date/Time:** Sunday, October 15, 2017
- ◎**Location:** In front of Hirono Town Community Center
- ◎**Host:** 2nd-year Futaba Future High School students (in the School’s special courses program)

Part 1: Overview

At Futaba Future High School in Hirono Town, students in the School’s special courses program enter one of the following four courses starting in their 2nd year of study, in which they receive practical training in Soso District, i.e. courses in industrial, agricultural, commercial, or welfare studies.

During the forum, a group of students in the agricultural course sold hamburgers they made themselves and also handed out bulbs of the golden rayed lily; students in the commercial course sold pears cultivated by farmers in Okuma Town and sweets baked by high school students living in Fukushima’s Hamadori coastal region.



INTERACTIVE EVENTS

◎TEA CEREMONY

- ◎**Date/Time:** Thursday, October 12, 2017
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Entrance hall)
- ◎**Persons in charge:** Sosei Igari and 14 others

Part 1: Overview

To extend the forum’s hospitality, on behalf of it, representatives of the Urasenke school of chado (the way of tea), a cultural organization in Hirono Town, entertained participants with tea and namagashi (unbaked wagashi confections).



◎SAMPLING OF HEALTHY JUNEN-UDON NOODLES

- ◎**Date/Time:** Sunday, October 15, 2017
- ◎**Location:** In front of Hirono Town Community Center
- ◎**Persons in charge & collaborators:**
Community members (Hirono Town Women’s Association)
Hirono Town Hall (Reconstruction Planning Division)
Helpers from Hirono Town Hall

Part 1: Overview

Junen-udon noodles are one of Fukushima Prefecture’s regional dishes, in which we dip chopsticks full the noodles in a bowl of sauce made from mixing perilla seeds, sugar, and miso paste. Guests and community members, regardless of gender and age, all truly enjoyed the local dish.



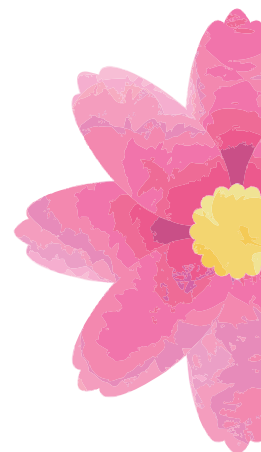
◎SALE OF FOODS BY SOCIAL WELFARE CORPORATIONS

- ◎**Date/Time:** October 13 (Fri.) and 14 (Sat.), 2017
- ◎**Location:** Hirono Town Community Center (Entrance hall)
- ◎**Hosts:** Volunteers from Iwaki Gakuen and Work Center Sakura



ふくしまから
はじめよう。

Future From Fukushima.



4th International Forum
“Message from Disaster Affected Areas”

—Eat, sing, and talk at a multifaceted meeting in Hirono Town— [Report]



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

