

Session 2 "International Symposium –Let's Say What We Want to Say–"

- Date/Time: Sunday, September 20th 2015 10:30-12:30
- Venue : Hirono Gymnasium
- Facilitator : Dr. Jerome Delli Priscoli, Senior Advisor, US Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources, USA
- Number of Participants: Approx. 70 persons
- Overview

The participants of the International Forum discussed in the brain storming format the following two questions. The outcome of the discussion was summarized as below.

(* represents the comments made by multiple groups)

Question 1: In your opinion, what are the most important complaints and/or lessons from the impact of tsunami/earthquake/power plant accident?

1. A) Lack of information and lack of independent mechanisms*, B) Lack of information we can trust*, C) Convey the information in more responsible manner
2. Relationship between the citizens and the government is dependents. Citizens should be free to interact.
3. People assumed area was safe and didn't learn from history.*
4. How does each individual gain sense of safety?
5. Humans have difficulty accepting change, but humans become accustomed to change.
6. Unaffected people do not understand the disaster.
7. System did not have enough cooperation among governments and participation.
8. People here need to communicate information outside.
9. Should be using other mechanisms for communication, i.e. social media, etc.
10. More preparation is needed.
11. Officials need to recognize people will be disoriented and panicked at first, and they need to understand that. If this does not happen confusion will grow.
12. Lack of consultation among levels of governments and communities.
13. Need to do more about the concern on food.
14. Good programs poorly implemented caused confusion.
15. Lack of means to exploit opportunities that have risen.
16. Disaster makes people think more about their home town and community spirit.
17. Awareness and abilities of crisis management is low, especially among people living close to the plant.
18. Working very hard but not conveyed outside. This is disappointing.
19. Communities were divided. New people created new order.

20. People feel they were not treated equally concerning subsidies.
21. Stop saying that accident is impossible.
22. People have different perceptions about the job the government is doing. This kind of meeting helps to communicate to the outside what really is happening.
23. People need more media literacy.
24. Need enough reserves such as petrol to evacuate.
25. Bring the time-frame for all activities into the perspective/understanding of people. It will create more certainty on what will happen.
26. Citizens need to be better educated in science so that they can take even more responsibility as citizens.
27. Is it important to understand who is responsible and what happened?
28. Somebody needs to be punished?
29. We need better understanding of risk. Need to understand we live with risks understand the cost.

Question 2: What are the most important actions you and/or your organization can take to deal with these lessons?

1. Dialogue with citizens
2. Broader cooperation
3. Citizens should take ownership
4. Disaster drills so that citizens are trained
5. Identify whether the information has been received
6. Identify the sources of information
7. Better training*, better expectations for possible disasters
8. Communicate information overseas from research institutions. Citizens need to understand radiation.
9. Better mechanism for sharing information and experiences through researches and publications.
10. Researchers should compare studies and disseminate information.
11. Educating young people
12. Better way to tie people and administration independently
13. Information on what citizens are doing should be conveyed.
14. Residents should be independent of administration.
15. We can continue to live here and take steps such as agriculture.
16. Make a special commemoration day to remember the disaster.
17. We can tell people about good food, beauty of the region so that outside people can see.
18. Integrating resilience from local to the international level

19. Education to match the situation, and let the students think about this issue.

Session 4 "Cooperation between disaster affected towns and town that receive the evacuees – frank discussion among junior officers"

○Date/Time: Tuesday, September 15th 2015 14:00-17:00

1.Objectives

Junior town officers have a frank discussion in hopes to further strengthen cooperation between affected towns and towns that receive evacuees in the near future.

2. Participants (21 participants in total)

One to three young officers (around 30 years old) from each municipality of Futaba district (total 17 participants) and secretariat members

3. Agenda

Each participant made statements regarding the following three points.

- What are your thoughts, feelings and concerns in your daily work?
- What are the lessons learned from the experiences since the disaster?
- What are the messages you want to state or deliver to the outside world?

4. Statement summary

- The worries of junior officers were generally as follows:
 - Concerning officers caring about young children, they were most concerned about if they should or shouldn't return to their homes after lifting of the evacuation order (many answers).
 - Participants were not sure to what extent should support be provided to citizens (multiple answers).
 - Since the disaster, officers have to spend so much time listening to the complains of the citizens, even though they themselves are also the victims of the disaster (multiple answers).
- For people who are commuting a long distance by car, the long commute are wearing down their bodies like body blows (multiple answers). Some young officers are working so hard and are suffering from mental problems.
- The officers want people from other prefectures to see the affected region with their own eyes (multiple answers). They want to show people from the outside that the severe conditions have been continuing, however, they understand that there is a high chance that people will understand this as a way to make an excuse for the locals to receive more compensation. Thus, they are caught in a difficult situation.

- Preparedness against disasters is needed (many answers). On the other hand, disaster response plans and manuals often do not function in emergency situations. Every person on the grounds needs to be as decisive as possible and cooperation between citizens needs to be fostered (multiple answers).
- Concerning the support to citizens, excessive support is not good (multiple answers). It is important for the town office to show the extent to which they can provide support, and facilitate citizens to respond in more self-reliant manner.
- Facing the trend of low birthrate and aging population, we should increase the immigration from the outside (multiple answers).
- We are working, telling ourselves that nobody is responsible for this disaster.

Impressions – thoughts concerning the received statements (by convener)

- It is important to recognize that each of the town officer is also a family member and a disaster affected person. They have various standpoints and are making their lives very difficult.
- People who have found a place to settle down with their family have relatively clearer vision about their lives. On the other hand, others who still cannot decide on their residence have more concerns and anxieties.
- When thinking about the future of each municipality, it is very important also to ensure that the ideas of people from outside are incorporated.

Observations by Convener

This time, 2 persons participated from each municipality attended (17 participants all together) and the opinions of all participants were heard. However, within the three hours of given time, each participant was only able to express their opinions three times. Moreover, time was spent for participants to express their own opinions, and there was no chance for lively exchange of opinions.

In order to make sure that more frank discussion can take place, the following points need to be considered for the next opportunity.

- Increase the chances for everyone to make statements
- Ensure a lively exchange of opinions

We would like to propose particularly the points below.

- We can reduce the total number of participants by restricting the number of participants from each municipality to one person. However, considering that some participants have to drive long distances to attend the meeting, it is appropriate to have two

persons attending from a municipality for the sake of their safety.

- Participants can be divided for example into 4 groups and have them talk for thirty minutes about a given topic. The convener can facilitate the wrap up session by asking each group to present the outcome of their discussion. Through this type of format, opportunities for each member to speak will increase.
- To achieve a vigorous opinion exchange, it would be good, if on top of the discussion points proposed by the secretariat, each group would also discuss about another point which they choose among themselves.
- If possible, it would be much easier to achieve exchange of opinions if there is an opportunity to share meals together after the discussion.

Session 5 “Tea salon – Residents of disaster affected towns and towns that receive evacuees chat over tea”

○Date/Time: Wednesday, September 16th 2015 9:00-12:00

○Contents

1. Self-introduction ▪ Present situation of ourselves and the ones close to us, how to move forward from now on.

- The problem is not that of where people live, but what type of people they are. Not much friction occurs in the interaction among children.
- There is a longing to live in the hometown, but it is difficult to return to a place where there are not all the conveniences people are used to. Before the citizens can return to Hirono town there is a need to provide the needed infrastructure first.
- We will challenge how to get back citizens who have spread all over the country after the disaster by connecting the communities that have fallen apart.
- There are walls in the form of difference of opinions among district welfare officers or at senior meetings concerning compensations and certificates of residence. There are opposing groups that agree or disagree with accepting the disaster refugees. However this is not a problem, the town will accept newcomers in the future as well.
- There is some friction between the evacuees and the Iwaki citizens. However, in order for both Iwaki City and Futaba District to come to terms, they will have to make a compromise.
- People can't live as evacuees forever. We can't paint a future without the strength of self-reliance.

<Summary>

- It is quite natural that there have been some degree of friction in temporary housing, within families, or between Iwaki City and Futaba District after the disaster. Although there are problems concerning certificates of residence and administration, it is important to overcome these issues.

2. What is going to happen with Iwaki and Futaba residents? What is our outlook and the outlook of the town in the future?

- The only people who want to return are the elderly. If the elderly change residence there will be a need for elderly care. The key to that is to move the young working generation with them.

- Within the Iwaki City Executive Council and Iwaki City Restoration Plan, there are no specific measures concerning the partnership with Futaba District.
- There is a need for equal standpoint.
- People of Futaba District were able to live hand-to-mouth existence in emergency temporary housing, however, it has been five years since the disaster and the conditions still haven't changed. The number of people in temporary housing is decreasing and the time for its closure is approaching. It is time to make a decision.
 - The anxiety of residents can be reduced if the administrations (Iwaki-Futaba) have a dialogue, overcome barriers and decide a direction in which to proceed.
- There is a need to preserve conditions where there are benefits for both the host communities and the evacuees (win-win situation). It is often the negative aspects (problems of compensations and garbage collection) that get much public attention, and not the aspects that will bring positive impact to the economy.
- Friction itself isn't bad, and it is natural for discord to arise. The problem is if the opinions don't clash. A structure to verify problems is needed where equal parties can dialogue.

<Summary>

- To resolve the question of returning or not returning, and to decide a future for ourselves, it is not a vision embedded in the administration framework, but a vision of this region as a whole is needed. Friction itself arises when ideas do not reach out. There is a need to create a place to have a dialogue to resolve issues, and this Forum can become such opportunity.

Session 6 "Mama-Papa IDOBATA meeting in Hirono - Let's talk about raising children"

○Date/Time: Wednesday, September 16th 2015 10:00-12:00

Participants discussed in a group discussion (40 minutes) with approximately 10 people per group. As most of participants from the town were mothers that have returned to Hirono, the discussions centered around reasons for returning to the town and their lives after returns. Participants expressed that the life back in Hirono is inconvenient in physical terms, e.g. lack of medical services and shopping. However, they feel enriched to be home compared to their lives in temporary housings where they had to be careful not to disturb others. Many participants said that they feel happy to be back when looking at their children's happy faces.

However, people expressed that there is not enough occasions for parents with children to get together. Before the disaster, it was easy to meet people in parks, share concerns and let children to interact. There are parks in town, but community has broken apart after the disaster and people are no longer using the parks. As there are no places or cafes for parents with children to get together, some participants expressed their desire for such places.

Some mothers also said that there are no places for housewives to leave their children unless they were working, as public nurseries only accept children with parents working. As sufficient support for parents with children is critical for reconstruction, there is a need to improve environment for raising children and create jobs for those generations.

Given that the need for a place to exchange opinions and interact was raised from participants, the administrative body or the community as a whole should think of creating a platform where parents with children could gather, share concerns and discuss solution. Students and international participants that joined the session posed questions to the local participants, which enabled extraction of honest opinions and made the session very useful.

Main opinions raised included the followings:

○Current Status

- Decontamination and decommissioning workers are strangers and local people are scared of them.
- Medical services and stores are not sufficient in the town, but the situation has not changed before and after the disaster.
- There are not much working opportunities in Hirono. Moreover, fulltime job is difficult to find if you have children.

○Raising children

- There are so many workers in town, which makes it difficult to allow children to play outside.

- People want to let children play outside, but there are not many children in the same age group.
- Parents have to fetch their children to/from Iwaki City for activities outside school, e.g. swimming and cram school.
- Children are isolated especially during long holidays such as summer vacation, since there are limited opportunities to meet other children.
- There used to be many children and their parents in parks before the disaster, but that is no longer the case. Compared to the elders who were able to play with their friends before the disaster, you can see the difference in ability to socialize with young ones who have less opportunity to play with kids at their age.
- There is no clinics/hospitals to go even in case of injury.
- There are no places for housewives to leave their children, as public places only accept kids of those working.

- Positive side of returning
 - Children look relaxed and they look very different compared to when living in temporary houses. They were living in a villa before the disaster, but children were forced to keep quite in temporary house which was stressing them.
 - People feel mentally enriched being home though not materially.
 - Children have ability to adapt. It may be parents who are preventing children's return.

- Reasons for return
 - Considering balance between stress of being an evacuee and anxiety of returning.
 - Spouse working or have a house in the town.
 - Timing of children's admission to schools.

- Requests
 - Need large commercial facility.
 - There were a few theft incidents. There is a need for reconfirming the security.
 - There is a need for education facility where community such as elders could look after children.

Session 7 “Regional Partnership among Disaster Affected Towns – let’s look at the perception gap among the disaster affected towns!”

○Date/Time: Wednesday, September 16th 2015 14:00-17:30

1. Overview

In Futaba District, there have been wide area partnerships among municipalities and private sectors since before the Great East Japan Earthquake. However, levels of disaster impacts differ greatly by municipalities, development of reconstruction plan and efforts to bring back residents and reconstruct the towns have been implemented by individual municipality. Most of the support from the national government, etc, is also provided at the town/village level. It is indispensable to explore the possibility of wider-area partnership while facing the “perception gap” that exist among the disaster affected towns. This is an issue not only for the disaster affected communities but also for Japan as a whole.

In this session, Prof. Shioya (Fukushima University) introduced the objectives of this session, which was followed by 5 presentations. After that, the participants were divided into three groups, conducted group discussion under the topics of “education”, “medicine, health and social welfare” and “industry”, and explored the issues and ways forward for promoting partnerships.

2. Presentations

Prof. Yasumichi Nakai (Fukushima Future Center for Regional Revitalization, Fukushima University) presented the Fukushima University’s satellite center established in Kawauchi Village, and the current situation of Kawauchi Village. Kawauchi Village was the first village that lifted the evacuation order, and have been reconstructing its own infrastructure, but the percentage of residents that have returned remain at about 59%. Prof. Nakai recommended that the municipalities of the Futaba District will need to consider “efforts that can be done by individual municipalities” and “those that require partnerships and wider-area partnerships”.

Ms. Nobuko Akashi (Super Coordinator, Futaba District Education Revitalization Vision Promotion Council, Fukushima Prefecture) said that schools in Futaba District are reopened but children have not returned, and that this issue cannot be solved by individual municipality alone. That is why the Education Revitalization Vision was formulated in July 2013 and established Futaba Future High School. She also suggested that it is important to distinguish what can be done at the individual municipality level, school level, or those that require wider-area partnerships, and said that horizontal and vertical partnerships (through regional partnerships and partnerships at different levels of schools (kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school and high school)), and partnerships among diverse stakeholders are needed.

Mr. Hiroshi Kawamura (President of JIN) has been working to make sure that Namie Town will not disappear through such efforts as establishment of salad farm, poultry farm and horticulture which he started in March 2014. Mr. Kawamura has been promoting elderly people to be engaged in agriculture so as to prevent them from requiring care, and has also been gathering students from cities so as to create a community that is filled with dreams and hopes through the cooperation of “Youth, Outsiders, and Idiots”.

Mr. Mikio Owada (Vice Chair of Hirono Town Commerce and Industry Association) said that businesses that rely highly on the residents, such as service and retail industries, have lower reopening rate, and are facing problems such as lack of successors and rising of labor cost. On the other hand, reconstruction related industries such as construction, accommodation and restaurant businesses have higher rate of reopening but are facing the issues such as securing employees. The reconstruction related work is expected to rapidly reduce in size in the future, thus development of new business is urgently needed.

Finally, Mr. Hiroyuki Matsumoto (Secretary-General of Futaba Towns and Villages Assemblies) mentioned that in Futaba District the inter-municipality union has been formed to jointly provide administrative services such as disaster management, garbage, sewerage collection, care certification, etc, and that not only the local government but also the residents should stand with the spirit of “ties” which believes that “making the neighboring town better makes your own town better” and explore ways to develop a system where 8 towns and villages of Futaba District can mutually support each other.

3. Group Discussion

(1) Education (Moderator: Noriko Takagi)

- After the disaster, schools in Futaba District were scattered around Fukushima Prefecture. Many students changed schools 5 times in a year, due to many reasons including bullying or school refusal.
- Elementary schools and junior high schools are under the jurisdiction of municipalities. It is difficult to go to school across the school district. Wide area partnership is not only an issue of providing a school bus, but has to be thought together with providing houses close to school, etc.
- In Belarus, much of the efforts were put into letting students understand the actual situation by letting them measure the radiation level, rather than providing them with mental care. Let them understand that strawberries or mushrooms have high levels of radiation. The children let that information known to their parents, and learn not only about radiation but also environmental issues.

(2) Medicine, Health and Social Welfare (Moderator: Prof. Shioya)

- In Hirono Town, volunteers are watching over the elderlies after returning back and the

system to support the elderly have been strengthened after the disaster. In Namie Town, however, they do not know how many of their residents will return, making it difficult to build “communities that used to exist before the elderly care insurance system”.

- The disaster has forced the care insurance premium up, which makes the situation difficult for many elderly. There is also a problem that people who built houses without moving their resident register cannot receive livelihood support from the municipality where they have evacuated to.
- The sustainability of the society is an issue. It is needed to build a community where people can become the main actor, and bring in young generations. Moreover, the issue of the Futaba District in 50 years or 100 years from now have to be thought not only by the Futaba District. It is also an issue for the entire Fukushima and entire Japan.

(3) Industry (commercial and manufacturing industry) (Moderator: Prof. Yasumichi Nakai)

- The number of residents that have come back to Hirono is about 2,500, half of the original population. In order for the local retail shops to be revived, local population needs to be increased. It is also needed to make the town ready to accept the population from other municipalities in Futaba District. For that, the town will need to make the town more attractive, and cooperate with other municipalities.
- The Innovation Coast Plan requires a driver that strongly forces the plan forward, and sharing of the vision within the region. It is also needed to accumulate small successes by the residents.
- The experience of this forum will need to be shared, and for that a leader is required. The local actions need to be flourished and participation of and cooperation by other municipalities will have to be explored.

Session 8 “Let’s think about agriculture in the affected area”

○Date : Thursday, 17th September 2015 9:00 – 12:00

○Location : Hirono Town Gymnasium (Arena)

○Contents

- To begin with, Mr. Hayashi shared with the participants the information about the following: [General information about agriculture in Hirono and South Futaba region from Showa period to present, revival of the disaster area] - agriculture in Hirono and South Futaba region, agricultural cooperative, prefectural farms and land improvement from historical standpoint, rural landscape mentioned in the ballad of Hirono (Steam train) as well as the establishment of water reservoir in the west and initiative to plant of orange trees.

- Next there were presentations concerning following issues “Restoration of agriculture practices aimed towards water resources restoration”, “Reason to protect the land and water resources inherited from our ancestors”, “How to inherit and develop the agriculture in Hirono town”, “Hirono unions—Hirono rice sales promotion and agricultural produce manufacturing (miso, oranges)”, “My vision of the paddy field agriculture management”, “Agricultural land and water resources protection”.

- 3. The Convener, Prof. Komatsu, shared about the current situation of agriculture and food within Fukushima prefecture, development of agriculture by citizens of the small community, abundant food production, discussion about beautiful scenery while he also introduced examples about how to deal with revitalizing the food industry and agriculture within the prefecture.

- 4. Remarks were received from the participants, which led to deeper discussion with four panelists and conveners. Some of the topics discussed included the new brand of rice to be cultivated in Hirono, and that the increase in collected “hometown tax” has been providing them with an incentive. It would be worth to support new types of farming for which organic fertilizer and setting up of a compost center in the town would be needed. As a town at the northern edge of the orange growing region, the town should reinvent itself and find a way to increase production of oranges. It was also discussed that we should protect the rivers and local places of particular beauty which are pride of the region and market local produce, as oranges and chestnuts, as a specialty born in this beautiful region. To revitalize the region we should include the citizens in the discussion.

Session 9 “Thinking about the safety of Hirono town”

○Date : Thursday, 17th September 2015 10:00 - 12:30

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

○Contents

Objectives : Participants to exchange opinions about the measures needed to feel more safety and security in Hirono where the number of returned population is far exceeded by the number of decommissioning and decontamination workers. Furthermore, we want to provide an impulse for people to start thinking about coexistence with workers.

1. Part 1 Report from the panelists

- Mr. Iijima : Reported about the town administration’s understanding of workers’ conditions, and presented about pros & cons concerning aggregation of workers’ housings.
- Mr. Sanpei : Reported from the police department about crimes, traffic accidents and the condition of public safety in Hirono town, and presented about the way to coexist with the workers.
- Mr. Yoshida : Reported about the reality concerning workers from the standpoint of a workers housing manager. He reported about differences in workers occupation; i.e., nuclear power plant, decontamination, seaport, etc.
- Mr. Takagi : Reported concerning the efforts of decontamination of Hirono town, and reported about workers’ housing and their management system.

2. Part 2 Q&A

- Housing for the workers – pros & cons
- The contracting structure of workers (subcontractors, etc)
- Mutual understanding and symbiosis between workers and locals
- Possibility of business opportunities for services that target workers

○Closing (Summary)

Discussion is needed about what the local citizens should aim at in terms of co-existence with workers. The town had many workers working since before the disaster, but the community then was in a better shape. Now, the community has fallen apart. This is one of the sources of anxiety. Another source is the fact that local citizens can’t see the true nature of decontamination workers. The main target is to make the local people more aware of the real qualities of the workers. Through getting to know them we can make a first step towards wiping away the anxiety.

Session 10 "Discussion with Junior high school students and teachers"

○Date : Thursday, 17th September 2015 11:20 - 12:45

Eight junior high school students (3rd graders) presented their experience and what they learned from their study visit to Canada.

Each student gained insights by being exposed to different culture. They compared food, habits, climate and characteristic of the people with those of Japan and found there are differences that are easily acceptable and those that are difficult to adopt. Some also discovered merits of Japan which they could not see in their everyday lives while in Japan.

The same could be said about communication. There were distances between the students and the Canadian hosts at first, but those distances became smaller as time went by. They also felt that it was frustrating not being able to communicate well in English, but in an effort to communicate using gestures and other means they also learnt the joy of communication.

The visit was precious experience for all students and they all felt that they wanted to visit Canada again and communicate about their experience to their friends.

Students reported the followings:

- Difference in food culture
 - Big in size (L size in Japan is S size in Canada, e.g. ice-cream, pizza)
 - Breakfast: In Japan is rice with main dish and miso-soup while it is usually waffle, pancakes or cereal in Canada. Isn't it too little? Morning in Canada is busy?
 - Method of cooking: Apples are usually cut in small pieces in Japan, but not in Canada. They even serve raw carrots.
 - Breakfast and dinner: fewer number of dishes.
 - We love Japanese food. We should appreciate the fact that we can eat Japanese food.
 - Canada has many sweets. Canada is famous for its maples and breads and cookies with maples were popular.
- Discovery
 - It was surprising to know that people in Canada often do not have a bath and just take a shower.
 - It was surprising to know that Japanese cartoon was on air in English.
 - Sweets and spicy snacks were tasty.
 - Bottles of drinks were with odd amount, e.g. 473ml and 443ml.
- Characteristics of Canadian people
 - People were open minded, kind and friendly.
- Environment

- Like Japan, it was hot during the day and cool in the mornings and evenings.
- Night in Canada was bright until 9pm.

Questions from overseas participants

Q How many year have you been studying English? A 2 years

Q. How long were you in Canada? A. one week

Q. What is your impression of Vancouver A. It was lively

Session 11 Let's think about reputational damage - relationship with the outside
world and information dissemination -

○Date : Thursday, 17th September 2015 14:00 - 17:00

The session tried to focus on reputational damage as not simply as the psychological issue or anxiety issue, but as the issue that the Hirono Town is facing in reconstructing the town. Reputational damage was discussed from the broad perspectives from logistics to industrial structure in order to explore what kind of information needs to be provided so as to contribute to reconstruction of the town.

Prof. Sekiya reported that, from past incidents, reputation damage could be explained as "economic damage caused by people seeing "safe" food, item, region or firm as hazardous and holding them back from consumption or tourism, which could be influenced by media coverage on social issues related to safety (incident, accident, pollution, disaster and economic depression)."

Prof. Norito presented two case studies related to food. The rate of locally produced food used in school lunch in Hirono was 63% and 43% in 2009 and 2010 respectively which could be considered incredibly high. However, many parents currently do not feel comfortable about using agricultural products from Hirono Town and the prefecture for school lunch. Resolving this issue is essential in bringing back Hirono food products in the market (Resolving the issue has symbolic meaning to show that there are no risks of internal exposure. Therefore, this will be the ultimate goal no matter how long it may take). There is a plan to serve 3000 lunches per day for workers in Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and lunch will be using food produced in the prefecture. There is a need to utilize this opportunity.

Prof. Igarashi introduced a case study on recovery from reputational damage in Kashiwa City. Main points are: importance of recovering agriculture for local consumers; importance of consensus building in defining standards and methodologies for measurement and avoiding top-down approach; and importance of exploring new market through appropriate communication. It was also discussed that most products from Joban area including Fukushima are commodities and not unique. Therefore, it is not easy to regain the share once it is lost.

Prof. Ide presented that "Combined Tourism" will be important form of tourism for Hirono Town which is located in the vicinity of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, and the town will probably become a hub for learning nuclear accident in the long term. Therefore, it will be important to record and present both positive and negative information.

Mr. Inagaki introduced a case on reconstruction from Chuetsu Earthquake. He presented the significance of preparing worst and best scenario for reconstruction, importance of effort

for increasing nonresident population, identifying local assets and dialogue as part of the process.

Below are the three main points discussed with the floor on what is needed to overcome reputational damage and to move towards reconstruction.

No.1: We need to face the issue of school lunch. Major concern of people returning to town is internal exposure, i.e. food safety. Therefore, we should seriously think of solution to this issue.

No.2: Vitalize communication between people of Hirono Town. People of Hirono Town should continue to dialogue and identify local assets (There are good selling points such as high rate of consuming locally produced products).

No.3: Involvement of outsiders. It is important to try and attract people to Hirono Town and increase nonresident population as well as to actively provide information.

To summarize, reputational damage is not a psychological issue, but issues of food safety (eradication of concerns on internal exposure), recovery of agriculture and consumption of locally produced goods, and attracting nonresident population to the town. These are definition of reconstruction of Hirono Town itself which we should tackle with all means.

Session 12 “Let’s think about yourself and your town in 5, 10 and 30 years from now!”

○Date : Thursday, 17th September 2015 14:00 - 16:30

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

○Summary

1. We introduced a style of philosophical café in the discussion.
2. At first, the coordinator explained the objectives of the workshop. Next the facilitator explained how the philosophical café proceeds and its rules. The coordinator was responsible also to write the opinions of participants on the whiteboard.
3. The main theme of the discussion was to know the current status, and before and after the 3.11 disaster.

Current feelings of people are not normal. There is a feeling of being out of place. There is a feeling of mental strain.

It is urgently needed to find out what are the causes – town administration

What used to be common is now unusual and this state becomes the new norm.

Decommissioning will be completed in 30 years from now. Entrust the safety to the next generation, the sense of security will return : scenery with dragon flies, not thinking about radiation.

Main factors why people are not able to return : fear of radiation, education, state of healthcare, inconveniences.

People are used to conveniences from the temporary housing.

4. The participants explored and picked up keywords from all the expressed opinions

Inconvenience

Next generation/children

Timing

5. The participants posed questions using the above keywords

How can we find a value in an inconvenient lifestyle?

Are there any good things in inconvenience?

How can we look at inconvenience from another angle?

Create time for reflexing, and think about others.

○Closing (Summary)

▪ Prior to the workshop, the convener received various opinions on strips of paper from the residents at the summer festival held in August. These opinions were to serve as an input to the session. However, the coordinator did not mention about those opinions, as it was most important to concentrate on the dialogue with the participants. One of the participants, however, commented during the session reflecting on the opinions that she wrote on at the festival. That probably means that she had time to think and reflect in depth on what she had written. Through anonymous submissions of comments on strips of papers, one gets to know the way of thinking of citizens, and by collecting these submissions over time we may observe

changes in their opinions.

- Result of the session

As it was the first time trying the “Philosophical café”, some participants seemed confused at the beginning. During usual workshops, the panelist make presentations and participants listen, and then participants express their opinions or pose questions about unclear issues. “Philosophical café” on the other hand progresses through a discussion in a flat and more “feel-secure” environment. The facilitator investigates the meaning of words expressed by participants, connects them and encourages dialogue among participants. Disaster victims are carrying on their daily lives while having various thoughts or concerns on their mind. This dialogue format tries to carefully listen to these thoughts and concerns, listen to conversations and look for words that promote coexistence and moving forward. It allows all participants to express their thoughts in their own words through the dialogue. There is no need for any expertise. It starts by posing questions about “ourselves” and “our town”, then from there proceeding on to “speaking” and “listening”, and slowly piling up the opinions. According to the philosopher, Kiyokazu Washida (2013), it is “exploring where the problems are and sharing of the process of questions being revised, rather than agreeing on something”.

In promoting the dialogue by posing a question about “our town”, participants themselves came up with the question of “What are inconveniences?”, and were able to find their answers. It was beneficial. If we had more time available, it would have been good to pose questions about “next generation/children”. We think there is a meaning in continuing this type of Philosophical café workshop.

Session 13 “Health of Hirono Citizens in Future ~What can we do to make a better life in Hirono in future?~”

- Date and time : September 18th , 2015 13:30 – 16:30
- Summary :

I. The condition of radioactivity in Hirono

(1) Outcome of the decontamination verification committee of Hirono town

Decontamination verification committee of Hirono town has been verifying the concerns around radiation from the view point of health. The level of the radiation exposure in Hirono town is not at the level of causing health impact. However, issues such as improvement of quality control of radiation test, integration of measures that are currently pursued independently, and effective information provision and dissemination are still need to be addressed. In this session, the participants were briefed about the examination result such as decontamination plan and progress, monitoring radiation level measured at houses, food monitoring, external and internal radiation exposure dose, as well as the challenges and recommendations on community participation and information dissemination by each expert based on the interim report of the verification committee issued in January 2015.

(2) Evaluation of dosimeter results by FUTABA Future High school

Students of FUTABA Future High school presented their study, in the form of responding to the recommendation regarding the effective use of personal dosimeter and proactive efforts by the residents. Results from the 2 weeks measurement by wearable D-shuttle, the electric personal dosimeter, with a group of students staying within Hirono Town and the other group who visited the Republic of Belarus, were provided. While a comment was posed by participants at the beginning of the session regarding the large discrepancies in the values among the individuals, the study results showed that the yearly conversion values were below 1mSv/year for all of the records, and thus it was concluded that the differences in the records could not be linked with health impact. Students presented the images of radiation in the environment which they produced before the project, and presented the difficulties in understanding invisible radiation. They also stressed the importance of providing easy-to-understand information regarding radiation in future.

(3) Efforts of Hirono Town following the interim report

Following the interim report of the verification committee, Hirono Town and its respective divisions have been undertaking various measures. The results of these efforts are gathered by the Hirono Town Radiation Counselling Room and the information is disseminated to the public in a centralized manner. As part of an effort in providing easy to understand information,

newsletters are being issued regularly.

II. Let's think about our future health!

(1) Think about lives in Hirono from the health perspectives

The population of Fukushima Prefecture, especially Hama-Dori region, has higher risks of life-style related diseases compared to other regions in the country. The risk was already high before the disaster, but it has gotten worse after the disaster. Moreover, it was reported that the risk of life-style related diseases is a lot higher than health impact of low level radiation. Therefore, it is important to sensitize people on the risk of life-style related diseases and think about measures to cope with it.

(2) Panel Discussion

Prof. Hashimoto, a member of Committee on Radiation Health Measures, Mr. Nakatsu, Director of Radiation Control Division and Mr. Aoki, Director of Resident Health Division participated the discussion:

1. Radiation is one of many risks which should be considered in relative terms.
2. There is a need to develop a mechanism for residents to actively think about how they should rebuild their lives and environment and make decisions (More than 4years have passed. Data have accumulated and radiation measurement has become part of people's lives. As opposed to immediately after disaster, we are no longer walking in dark but have enough data to make decisions based on data).
3. Experts will continue to provide support for scientific interpretation.
4. According to the interim report, radiation level is below the one scientifically considered hazardous. However, there is a unit and people who people can consult in case of any concerns which is backstopped by experts.
5. There is a need to recognize what information is required by people given that effective information on radiation was not provided.
6. People should recognize that the biggest risk that people are facing is life-style related diseases which need to be addressed.
7. Increase in risk of life-style related diseases due to evacuation could be dealt by responsible actions by individuals.
8. Concrete actions should be built around improving eating habit (reducing salt), exercise (walking) and life-style (early to bed and rise early).
9. There is a need to continue the effort based on the principle of “People actively tracking their status of health and making decision on their own”.

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Session 14 “We will face the challenges of Hirono town! – Challenges of FUTABA
Future High school students –”

- Date: Friday, September 18th 2015, 11:00 – 12:30 (Lunch 12:40-13:10)
- Summary

Part1 Performing the challenges of Hirono – Theatrical Performance –

An original English play was presented, which had been performed in Belarus this summer. It was one of the theatrical plays created through the school curricula of “Hometown Creation” from April to July 2015. The performance portrays former high school friends who reunite after the nuclear accident and their work and their attitudes towards work lead to conflicts and struggles.

Part2 Thoughts on Fukushima after seeing abroad – Report of study trip in the Republic of Belarus –

The students presented their experience in visiting the Republic of Belarus, which was affected by the accident of Chernobyl. Seven students participated in the study tour this summer. The students presented on their study tour and what they thought of Fukushima after seeing Belarus. They also reported that they had built friendship with the students in Belarus and that they returned with the consciousness of the importance of friendly relationship between the two countries.

Part3 Discussion

The participating students showed that each of them had firm attitude against the challenges that their local region is facing. They are sincerely facing these local challenges while looking also at the world. Such attitudes of the students gained much praise by the audiences. The audiences commented especially on their performance, which captured the complex situation in the region after the accident of nuclear power station. The students also confidently expressed their opinions when questions were posed from international experts about what they felt at the time of the accident, and what they plan to do in the future. The students were also advised to learn further about such issues as the political situation in the Republic of Belarus, various challenges and actual situation related to nuclear power generation and challenges on the environmental or energy issues. The students also received comments that encouraged them not only to learn through the educational program that the school provides them with, but also to challenge studies beyond the framework of the school by their own will.

○Closing (Conclusion)

- Output of this session (connecting networks, sharing information, etc.)

The session provided the students with an important learning opportunity. It also provided the opportunity for the education sector to disseminate information about the ongoing efforts. It was a valuable session in many aspects. It provided a good opportunity for connecting school with local governments and residents that could lead to human resources development for reconstruction. Furthermore, interaction with international experts also provided valuable opportunities, which could lead to further opportunities to learn and deepen knowledge through visiting the places introduced, such as the UN.

- Future development and directions

Although it has only been six months since the opening of the school, participating in this session through cooperation with the Town Office brought to us great learning effects for the students, and significant impact to the community revitalization. We hope to promote further partnership between the town administration and school.

Session 15 “The Role of Journalists”

Date: Friday, 18th September 2015 14:00 – 17:00

Location: Hirono Town Gymnasium (Arena)

Number of participants: approx. 30 people

Overview:

1. Panellists introduction
2. Impressions concerning journalism from the time of disaster until today
3. Awareness about current state of reconstructions
4. What do you expect from reconstruction?
5. What is expected from journalists concerning the reconstruction?

The session provided the opportunity for the journalists to carry out a direct exchange of opinions concerning the disaster and reconstruction. It was a rare occasion to have five journalists in charge of the Futaba district in their respective media companies to gather at one location. It was probably the first attempt since the disaster to organize such panel discussion by journalists.

After the introduction, the journalists discussed about the impressions concerning the journalism on the Great East Japan Earthquake. Much of the comments were about feelings of anger and sorrow concerning the disaster rather than the objective facts. Concerning the reputational damage, a panellist presented on the experimental effort at school where radiation doses were measured during the physical education class. General participants of the session also posed questions about Hirono town and the regions that were affected by the disaster.

The problem of disaster related compensations was also discussed. A panellist said there were many complaints from the evacuees after writing about the compensation issue, but there was a comment made by another panellist that there is nothing that the journalist shouldn't write about.

There are certain taboos when media writes about a disaster. Shedding light on these issues could be one of the roles of journalists. By reporting all issues including the positive and negative aspects of reconstruction, journalism will come alive. This is the role of the journalist and is the expectation from the society.

Session 17 “Stepping Out Towards the Future”
(Individual interviews with international experts)

○Date and Time: September 16th to 18th 2015

○Overview

[Objective of the Session]

Three of the international experts have conducted one-to-one dialogue with residents of the temporary housing, in order to draw from them the honest opinions of the residents towards reconstruction through inter-cultural interaction.

[Lessons learned]

- The most common reason for the residents to remain living in the temporary housing until the “day of closure” was that “it is enjoyable living close to the neighbors and being able to interact with them every day”.
- Families composed of multiple generations now have more opportunities to discuss about “where to relocate” after the temporary housing is closed.
- The most common reason for families with children to not return to Hirono Town was that “children have now settled into their schools (in the host community) and not want to change their schools”
- The common reasons for the younger generations to not return to Hirono were “Anxieties against the high radiation levels” or “distrust of disclosed measurement data”
- The renovation or repair work of houses is being delayed due to rising prices of materials and labor cost. Multiple residents mentioned that this was being one of the factors preventing them from returning.
- Many residents expressed that they were unsatisfied about “local government (municipality officers) not listening to the residents’ voices”.

[Recommendations]

- When elderly people (especially single person household) return to Hirono, they should not “be isolated by living in individual houses far from neighbors (their former houses)”. In order to avoid such situation, providing them with (paid) apartment style public housing should be considered. Furthermore, events to promote interaction among residents should be planned and implemented.
- “What town can do/cannot do” should be made clear and an “informal platform” should be established for the town government (town officer) to listen to the opinions of the residents without being implicitly obliged to take measures.

Session 21 “Tea Ceremony”

Date: Friday, 18th September 2015 18:30

Venue: Hirono Town Futatsunuma Park

On 18th September, a tea ceremony event was held at “Seimeikan” in the Futatsunuma Park as one of the interactive events of the International Forum. The tea ceremony was organized under a theme of “meeting with people from around the world”.

The event was designed to make the participants feel the atmosphere of “under the moonlight, being invited by the singing of bell crickets”. The event was attended by approx. 50 participants from Japan and abroad.

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

Session 22 “Let’s know the present Fukushima! Fukushima Excursion & Fukushima Learning Café”

○Date : Saturday, 19th September 2015 10:30 - 16:30

○Place : Disaster affected area & Hirono Gymnasium Arena

○Number of participants: approx. 60 people (Participants of Fukushima Excursion: 20 people, Fukushima Café: 40 people)

○Overview :

1. Fukushima Excursion

After meeting at Iwaki station the participants toured the disaster affected areas to see the present conditions of Fukushima. Participants were mostly from the Tokyo Metropolitan Area.

2. Fukushima Café

Dr. Kainuma presented the data on Fukushima based on his book “Fukushima for the First Time”, and helped deepen the participants’ understanding on Fukushima in a workshop format.

(1) Thoughts and questions raised by participants about the presented data

The remaining problems have deep roots. There are differences between the real feelings of residents and the data. What is the time and finances required for complete examination of food products? What should we do to make people not feel pity for Fukushima? How can we convince people logically? How to make it easy for people from other regions to learn about Fukushima? How can we make sure that the conversation doesn’t just end by stating that the disaster was terrible? The problems that Fukushima is facing are not much different from the problems that the country as the whole is facing. The percentage of primary industry before the disaster was lower than what we had imagined. The rice from Fukushima is safe. The indirect casualties of the earthquake are higher than the direct casualties. I was surprised by how much the rate of recovery differed among various industries. The image of the disaster is very different if people know all the numbers. People are moved by images, and it is an effective way to influence them. Who decides if the reconstruction has been completed or not?

The damage to tourism has been severer than expected. It seemed that the harmful rumours had the biggest impact on the decline of tourism. In spite of the harmful rumours there are industries that are recovering relatively well. Among the agriculture, forestry and fisheries industries, it’s the fisheries industry that isn’t recovering so well. Isn’t the timing of the decontamination of forests important? How should we think about Fukushima from now on? We should compare Fukushima with the rest of the country and find its strengths and

weaknesses. In considering the reconstruction of the region, seeing the data for individual cities of Hamadori region of Fukushima would be useful. Is it possible to see the statistics separately for each town or is it only available as a whole? (Is the statistical data after 11th March available?) From the perspective of citizens, country, prefecture and administration, what are the aspects which are going well and what are the aspects which need more improvement? What will happen to fisheries industry which has so far only achieved 9% reconstruction? What should we do to properly grasp the lives of the evacuees in statistics? What should be done for the evacuees that have become isolated? What are the problems of evacuees within the prefecture? The reality of Fukushima is unknown even to Japanese people. People abroad know probably even less. It was surprising that the inspection all rice bags resulted in none exceeding the radiation standard. The number of evacuees is 2.3% of total Fukushima population. The amount of harvested rice is at 86%. I felt that a lot of the numbers presented were appropriate. Why do you think that if you see this data it is difficult to trust it? Tourism is at 84.5%. What about the income from tourism? How can we best use the experience gained in Fukushima in other parts of Japan from now on? There is a lot of data that has not been made public. Why is it not being made public? Is it because of the way of doing PR? Is the number of people interested in the matter declining? How can we best approach this matter? Is the media instead of presenting a whole picture choosing only the interesting parts and numbers that deepen the stereotypes? Do the citizens themselves know about this data? Distance or familiarity with the land matters. It is possible to buy products cheaply but their quality needs to be improved. Should we use commercials and events to fight the harmful rumours concerning the agricultural products? What should we do to promote the tourism industry? How should we provide healthcare to the evacuees? The reconstruction of the forestry has been relatively high. The buildings in the town are being used but I am concerned about how much they are being used. Is the forestry going to be reborn? How should we proceed with the decontamination? Why has the birth-rate increased? How can we rebrand Fukushima as soft component? The movement to industrialize the agriculture sector. I found it understandable that the divorce rate has declined (foreign participant). I was surprised by the safety of the produced rice (foreign participant). There is a need to disseminate information abroad (foreign participants). The information about rice and fishing industry is very beneficial. (foreign participants)

(2)What are the appealing points of the region?

Landscape (foreign participants); People (foreign participants); Vision (foreign participants); Sea (foreign participants); There's plenty of space in Fukushima; The school life is good; Open space; Local sweets are delicious; Warm climate; The weather is cool; The sea is nearby; It's small; There are many trees; Environment and nature; The weather is nice; The

reason for shortage of medical care personnel; The accessibility is good; There are many decontamination workers living here; People are working hard in the reconstruction after the disaster; The appropriate population size (2 million people); You meet nice people here; People and food; People are kind; There is warmth; History; Tokyo is not too far; There are many people; There's rich nature; There's the sea, mountains and rivers; People here have gone through unique experience; People here have a strength to fight against disaster; It is the center of attention; Sense of unity; Town is just the right size; There is a lot of greenery; Lovely wind; There are ties between people; Warm atmosphere; The reconstruction is progressing faster than expected; People are open; Summer is cool and winter is warm; There's a focus on education; It's quiet and comfortable; Time passes slowly; If you climb up a hill you can see the calm deep blue ocean; Some people decided to live without relying on TEPCO; There are people here who strive to reform the current state of things; There are disaster affected persons who can speak about the 1/1000 disaster; New initiatives in the region after the disaster; Big International Forum (For a town the size of Hirono)

The session provided the opportunity for a lively discussion among many participants, and gave them the opportunities to look at the region from different perspectives.