

International Expert Symposium in Fukushima: Radiation and Health Risks
Fukushima Medical University
September 11-12, 2011

Background and Purpose

On March 11, 2011, as a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station was severely damaged, resulting in a nuclear accident that has yet to be fully contained. In recent days, it is true that a number of issues related to emergency radiation treatment have been clarified. On the other hand, however, local residents have been forced to lead difficult lives in a contaminated environment, resulting in a steady increase in anxiety and distrust. Further, contradictory information regarding radiation safety and protection has been circulating, resulting in social disruption that actually threatens a breakdown in the regional community and may complicate recovery efforts. In addition, the information provided by Japan to the rest of the world has been far from adequate. A much more complete disclosure is needed.

Nearly five months have passed since the accident. Due to the contamination of the environment, people who reside in the surrounding regions have been forced to evacuate and live in distress. At the same time, in those areas both inside and outside Fukushima, where radiation is a concern, parents are painfully worried about their children. The situation has been exacerbated by what can only be called an information disaster: the news circulating varies with the source which are sometimes inadequate. It is vital that we work to issue only correct, scientific information about the effects of radiation on health.

For this reason, The Nippon Foundation has decided to create a venue where the world's experts in the area of treating radiation-related injury can come together to discuss how to deal with the health risks resulting from the accident, and correctly comprehend the situation there. The Foundation will hold the "International Expert Symposium in Fukushima: Radiation and Health Risks," this coming September 11 and 12, at the Fukushima Medical University, to obtain appropriate advice from the world's experts, and to communicate both correct information about the health risks resulting from radiation, and an understanding of just what it is that constitutes effective risk awareness. This information will be aimed not only at the residents of Fukushima but also the world at large.

About 30 foreign guests have been invited. All are leading researchers, representing various specializations, and come from Europe, the Americas and the former Soviet Union. They hail from such organizations as the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the International Commission on Radiological Protection, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the World Health Organization. Their discussions will be extremely important for Fukushima's future recovery and revitalization. We also hope to apply the ideas gained from the discussions as we develop our support efforts for the planned Fukushima Residents Health Management Survey, as well as to the establishment of new global measures for radiation safety and protection.

August 1, 2011
Organizing Committee
International Expert Symposium in Fukushima:
Radiation and Health Risks