

## REPORT OF FUKUSHIMA FIELD TRIP

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I am grateful to FOLENS for organizing the field trip for us in Fukushima from 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to learn about life and agriculture after Tohoku earthquake and Fukushima nuclear disasters in March 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. In the visit, by conversation with different people in Fukushima who directly experienced the disasters and doing efforts for the future of Fukushima area, we could learn not only knowledge about life and agriculture after Fukushima accidents, but also apprehend the impacts of disasters on people as well as recognize lessons for dealing with disasters.

By this visit, we could deeply learn about the serious impacts of the earthquake and tsunami disaster and nuclear disaster to people. We were so sad to hear and see the devastating damages such as death and wound of thousands of people, lost of houses and properties caused by tsunami and earthquake, etc. and the environmental damages by nuclear accident life for long time in large area of Fukushima prefecture.

Agriculture is an important livelihood of people in Fukushima. However, because of the radiation pollution by the nuclear power accident, people in large area from the nuclear accident had to move to other area or evacuation area for escaping from radiation. For Minamisouma city only, where we visited, more than 13.000 people have been moving to other places or evacuation area. Besides, in larger area with lower pollution level, people could remain staying there but their life were strongly impacted by radiation pollution, especially farmers. Farmers in this area have been facing many difficulties in farming related to reducing of customers, low price sale, polluted products, etc. Therefore farmers are trying their best to find the countermeasures for their livelihood, including cleaning the polluted area, changing crop varieties and fertilizer application for lower radiation uptake into plant, advertisement, and so on. However, it seems very difficult for farmers to pass over those difficulties in short term as the radiation pollution for in this area were predicted to continue for long future.

In this trip, we could also visit study sites where TUAT researchers are carrying out experiment on different agriculture crops for reducing the radiation concentration in soil and plants. Although the researches are still in progress, they are promising having practical results for about the impact of radiation on agriculture as well as having potential solutions for low radiation in agricultural products and radiation pollution. I wish the researchers will be completed successful and thus can contribute to finding solutions for improving life and environment in this area.

By conversation with various people in Fukushima who directly experience the disasters and doing their efforts for the future of Fukushima area, I deeply appreciate their efforts for future life and their warnings about the risk of nuclear power plants. Ms. Mikako Takahashi, Hokuyosha Cleaning Company in Minamisouma city, told us the moved stories about her family and her hometown in Minamisouma city under the disasters and radiation damage with supreme expecting that we could know clearly about Fukushima nuclear accident and take this experience for future discussion and decision related to nuclear power in our places. She mentioned that economy benefit is important for the development of a nation or society but it should be in harmony with other focus including environmental and social aspects for sustainable development. We also visited to the Farm of Hope, a cow rescue area where Mr. Yoshidawa has been trying his best to take care around 400 cows remained in the area which has been damage by the radiation pollutions and was said to be killed by the government. I was also strongly impressed by a sentence of Mr. Masami Yoshizawa keeping silent is sometimes a good solution to many problems, but it does not work in the situation if your survivals are put in dangerous for some money. H, if he also mentioned that if you are in thinking or discussion for setting up a nuclear power plant, you should think if you can take it next to your own house; and you can do whatever you like, but you should also think about the impacts to other people and the future generation.

By talking with people in Fukushima trip, I also admire them very much as they always struggled heroically to the difficulties for better life even within many difficulties. They all worked so hard not only for themselves, but also for self-sacrifice and love for damaged people. I still remember another sentence of Ms. Mikako Takahashi, if we just do everything in our life for ourselves without any contribution to public, the life can not be much meaningful comparing to the life of somebody who do his works in association with others. That is why she has worked for cleaning company without thinking about getting benefits from this works or health problem by radiation because she wanted to contribute to restore her hometown where she could be together again with her former happy community.

From what I learn in the field trip regarding to Fukushima disasters, I think that earthquake and tsunami are natural disaster, thus we must accept it as natural event, and what we should do now is to prepare ourselves to deal with those disaster, especially sharing experiences related to living in disaster to more people. In contrast, the nuclear disaster is not natural disaster but human disaster. To me, nuclear power should not be allowed anymore even though it can be predicted at very low risk for accident. In a statistical data of nuclear power plant accident, over 62 years from the fist nuclear power plant was built in 1951 until now, 16 serious accidents have

happened. It means that that in average every 4 years there is a nuclear accident in the world. How do you think about this risky frequency? I believe that it is not a low frequency anymore. And, what should we do for the future without any nuclear power accident? The critical answer should focus on the responsibility of both the government and every citizen who directly related to energy consuming. If we have good strategy for creating sustainable energy as well as practice saving energy as much as possible, we would not depend on nuclear power anymore.

I definitely feel that I have achieved many things from this trip. I wish people in Fukushima soon restore the entire happy life.