

Workshop II

The Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident and the Atomic Bombing in Nagasaki

Date: November 3, 2013 10:00-12:30

Venue: Nagasaki City Peace Hall

Participants: About 180 people



Coordinators



Yoshikazu Shibano

(Japan, Associate Professor, Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science)

Panelists



Shuji Shimizu

(Japan, Professor, Fukushima University)



Tetsuya Takahashi

(Japan, Professor, University of Tokyo)



Arisa Yoshida

(Japan, Fukushima Prefectural Odaka Technical High School
/ Member of the Nagasaki Peace Messengers)

The reality of radiation damage and the concerns for the life among the citizens and based upon these situations, we gathered to discuss on the issues regarding the atomic bomb radiation in Nagasaki and also discuss as to what we can do to provide support to those people who live in Fukushima, who have been exposed to the radiation of nuclear power plants.

I don't know, whether or not we have been able to help really the discussion in line with the theme that had been presented to us but we at least have been able to understand deeply about what are the issues which have been caused by the Tokyo Electric Power at Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant.

We had a high school student, Arisa Yoshida, who goes to Fukushima Prefectural Odaka Technical High School and who is also one of the members of the Nagasaki Peace Messengers and she told us about the experiences of hers and she shared the photos that were taken in Fukushima. She talked about what she was actually thinking. She experienced the earthquake in Namie town and because of the fact that information was not given precisely, she had to move through the area where the radiation dose is highest. At the time of the graduate ceremony of junior high school that she was going, before graduating from junior high school, she experienced the earthquake and for the next 3 years that is her school days, she had to study at the temporary school building. What she wanted to make an appeal most was that people were not actually accepting the reality. Many people were really giving up the reality. Many people have started to take for granted the life that they had to endure with. Of course that incident occurred more than 2 years ago, but she just made an appeal that we should not forget it. Now, would you please, do not let the incident be forgotten. There are so many people who are concerned about the future and that situation should never be created again.

Also, she talked about her ideas about their nuclear power generation but she was saying that the adults should not repeat that accident. She also said that the adults should make right decisions. Once again, the adults should learn the lessons of Fukushima. The incidents and accidents occurred in Fukushima should not be forgotten. That's what she said.

And also, we have another panelist, Tetsuya Takahashi, who is the professor of University of Tokyo. He explained to us about the Fukushima accident. He said that it was the fact that although the problem occurred but the scope of damage was confined to that level is in a sense lucky situation. It could have been hugely extended.

Fukushima case has given us the implication that we could have had much more serious or much larger incidences. In case of Korea, there was a case in which they lost electricity for a certain period of time. That type of nuclear power accidents could occur in any place. And due to a nuclear

power plant that operation is based upon the sacrifices of somebody, in other words, the benefits can be obtained at the expense of the sacrifices of the other people; the excavation of the raw materials and also those people who are working at the frontline of the electric facilities, so once again, this is really the system based upon the sacrifices of the other people, and he was raising the question, is it really the right thing to do?

The nuclear weapon development and nuclear power generation is really the both sides of the coin. We are at the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Back in 1950s, nuclear power generation started in Japan. Since that time, there was the potentiality that nuclear power generation was created in order to maintain the nuclear deterrence, so just have to present the issue that really have to reach the conclusion that we really have to totally eliminate nuclear power generation, which could lead to the zero nuclear weapons, just as well as the being atomic bombing brought us the recognition of elimination of nuclear weapons.

Professor Shimizu of the Fukushima University was talking about the separation of the people of Fukushima. Those people who have been able to receive compensations and who have not been able to, and there are people who stay there, keep staying there and those people who have left there. There were some conflicts and antagonisms between these two groups.

The damages were of course on their adult lives in general, but at the same time there are separations, those conflicts were triggered as well, there is a notion that children should not be brought up there.

That kind of comment is not always coming out from the vicious intentions, but sometimes those comments could hurt people very deeply. People cannot believe it safe and secure by being persuaded. But people have to decide what they should and would do, based upon the information they could get. It is not persuasion to lead people to the direction but relationship of trust.

And if you believe that the other parties are telling you with the feelings, with compassion, the true compassion, to give you the comments on the situations, then you can believe what those people were saying. In the case of Belarus, the information was provided in order to receive the reliance from people for long time, instead of giving orders from the other people like you should do this and do that, so I think the wordings that you could use would be that 'it would be nice or it would be more advisable to do this'. Those people who live in Fukushima would be more willing to accept those advices if the right wording or right way of talk with compassion is utilized.

It is a really difficult matter what we are able to do from Nagasaki. There were questions from the floor. Fukushima people do not want to be called as the hibakusha. They don't want to be

singled out as Fukushima residents. Also, they have the radiation health handbooks but some people – in some municipalities they don't issue those handbooks in the vicinity of Fukushima because the citizens themselves do not want to be given the handbooks because they will be known to be hibakusha of nuclear power generation. It is really important to interact faithfully with them standing on their standpoint. We can't talk decisively about what should be done to the people of Fukushima only based upon the experiences of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. I don't know whether or not and how we can reevaluate at what should be done in Fukushima based upon the facts in Nagasaki but I think we have been able to deepen the understandings for the situation at the least. Thank you very much.