

WM2017 Conference Panel Report

PANEL SESSION 55: Fukushima Daiichi NPP – Revitalization of the Local Area and Economy – (7/8)

Co-Chairs: Hitesh Nigam, *US DOE*
Kazuhiro Suzuki, *TEPCO/NDF*

Panel Reporter: Kevin Kostelnik, *Savannah River National Laboratory*

Panelists:

1. **Taisuke Sakurai**, *Senior Policy Administrator, Planning & Coordination Department, Fukushima Prefectural Government (Japan)*
2. **Dr. Ozawa**, *Vice President, Fukushima University (Japan)*
3. **Dr. Shigekazu Suzuki**, *Associate Professor, National Institute of Technology, Fukushima College (Japan)*
4. **Shinichi Nakayama**, *Director General, Fukushima Research Infrastructural Creation Center, JAEA (Japan)*
5. **Rick Mcleod**, *President/CEO, Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (USA)*

This international panel provided a forum for discussing revitalization efforts of the Fukushima area and economy following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Summary of Presentations

Mr. Kazuhiro Suzuki of TEPCO/NDF, indicated that much decontamination work has been completed throughout the Fukushima Prefecture in the past six years. He also referenced the significant beauty of the Fukushima region and encouraged the audience to visit the region to conduct business as well as enjoy the rich culture, beautiful scenery, and local food and drink.

Mr. Taisuke Sakurai, Senior Policy Administrator, Planning and Coordination Department, Fukushima Prefectural Government (Japan), provided a detailed overview of the revitalization efforts that have been completed within the Fukushima Prefecture during the past six years. Mr. Sakurai indicated that the current situation is very different as compared to just after the accident. The earthquake/tsunami caused considerable destruction within the Fukushima Prefecture including 3957 deaths and tens of thousands of damaged or totally destroyed structures. Since that time more than \$100M has been invested in public infrastructure projects within the Prefecture with 85% of the projects having been completed to date. These projects have dramatically improved living conditions for the general population as well as working conditions for 1F workers. Manufacturing within the area has returned to pre-accident levels while tourism is at 90% of pre-accident levels for domestic and 80% for foreign visitors. Food safety remains an important concern. Stricter limits have been adopted for safety and routine monitoring shows that 99.99% of all rice currently produced within the Prefecture is below the reference limit. Mr. Sakurai further highlighted key revitalization projects going forward which include: Fukushima Renewable Energy R&D Center, the Innovation Coast Scheme, and the growing Medical-related Industry.

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Dr. Yoshihito Ozawa, Vice President, Director, Center for Regional Affairs, Fukushima University (Japan) next discussed the “Present Situation of Reconstruction and Revitalization in Damaged Area after the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster of March 11, 2011 as well as the Accidents of Fukushima Daiichi NPS”. His discussion highlighted the ongoing radiation monitoring within the area as well as ecosystem impact studies being carried out by representatives of Fukushima University. **Dr. Ozawa** highlighted the emergency measurement systems that have been installed following the accident to support the food monitoring, agricultural distribution and consumer safety.

Dr. Shigekazu Suzuki, Associate Professor at the National Institute of Technology, Fukushima College (Japan). **Dr. Suzuki** provided an introduction to the National Institute of Technology which is comprised of 51 Colleges throughout Japan, and includes Fukushima College. Fukushima College activities are focused on educational and human resource development and include special courses for regional rehabilitation. Fukushima College is also sponsoring a Nuclear Decommissioning Network to promote research cooperation and educational programs focused on decommissioning. These programs include training on Nuclear Power Plants, Radiation basics, and Robotics/Remote Systems. Educational opportunities include student internship programs Naraha summer school, “Creative Robotics Contests” as well as international exchange programs such as a summer school visit to the USDOE Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in 2016.

Dr. Shinichi Nakayama, Director General, Fukushima Research Infrastructural Creation Center, Japan Atomic Energy Agency (Japan) provided an overview of Japan Atomic Energy Agency’s (JAEA) commitment to revitalization of the Fukushima area and economy. JAEA, which employes approximately 3100 research staff throughout Japan, had no physical presence within the Fukushima Prefecture prior to the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. However, following the accident, JAEA has been moving research organizations into the region to support the recovery efforts. Today, JAEA has 7 new facilities opened or under construction with the Fukushima Prefecture. These include the Naraha Remote Technology Development Center for development of remote technologies for decommissioning of 1F, the Okuma Analysis and Research Center for analysis of radioactive materials/samples, and the Collaborative Laboratories for Advanced Decommissioning Science (CLADS) international collaborative research building at Tomioka.

Mr. Rick McLeod, President/CEO, of the Savannah River Site Community Reuse Organization (SRSCRO) (USA). **Mr. McLeod** provided a complementary international perspective from the US. As pointed out by **Mr. McLeod**, Community Reuse Organizations were established in regions where USDOE facilities are located, through legislative action in 1993. These organizations were established in response to negative economic impacts resulting from declining USDOE workforces. The SRSCRO is a non-profit organization that focuses on asset revitalization through the sale of excess/surplus DOE assets, workforce/human resource development, and community advocacy/communication with regard to community issues. The CRO approach provides a means for local/regional interests to speak with one voice as well as obtain a long-term financial source, both of which could be useful for the Fukushima revitalization efforts.

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This final portion of the panel session included an active question and answer interchange with the audience which was facilitated by **Mr. Hitech Nigam** of the USDOE. Considerable interest was expressed with regard to the positive work that has been completed to date as well as the amount of work remaining, including efforts and timing of the remaining evacuees to return to their homes.