

Life and Agriculture after Tohoku Earthquake and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster

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<Introduction>

More than a year has passed from the 3.11 disaster. However, the memory of 3.11 is still vivid for me, maybe that's because the media report us the news related to the disaster so often. How about Fukushima's people? Do they feel this 1.5 years were short? I sometimes wonder like this. I want to know what they are feeling.

Through the FOLENS program I was able to come in touch with their feelings. That makes me a bit confused but I'm so glad to be able to do that.

<Problems>

1. The rebuilding after the disaster is not ended.

The area attacked by the tsunami is not changed since 2011.3.11. Destroyed houses and cars are left over in the situation that they were swept away. Maybe Japanese government is working hard to rebuild the area, but the too extensive area and entry restriction to prevent radiation affect delay the rebuilding project.

2. The gap between the people's attitude in Fukushima and in Tokyo.

More than a year has passed since the earthquake attack. People in Tokyo are almost forgetting the serious disaster and losing their interest to remaining problems in Tohoku. On the other hand, people in Fukushima are still struggling with many problems. To move the government, every people in Japan need to have sympathy for people in Tohoku and keep concern with the 3.11 disaster.

3. The gap between people in disaster site and in other area of Fukushima.

The problem is the gap of compensation between areas attacked by tsunami or affected by radiation and other areas in Fukushima. People in other areas are suffering from the lack(reduce) of livelihood as same as people in disaster sites, but the amount of compensation from government for people in non-attacked areas is less than that for people in disaster sites. This gap may bring Fukushima's people in discord with each other and that will give a negative effect for the rebuilding.

4. Intension of Japanese people, including government, what to do with nuclear power plants is not decided.

This disaster is a good opportunity to think about an energy policy of Japan. The question “Which do you select, economy or human lives?” is inquired to everyone in Japan. It’s time to decide, but many people cannot decide yet, or they are not trying to think about it.

5. An affect of radiation for human body is not investigated thoroughly.

6. A lot of livestock stays in radiation-affected-area.

<Hopes>

1. Toughness of Fukushima’s people.

Fukushima’s people are very strong. They keep smiling and working hard for their future. Their toughness will be a power for the rebuilding.

2. A slight recovery of Japanese economy.

3. Many people start to think about the Japanese energy policy.

<Lessons for me/ What I can do>

Listening to stories of Fukushima’s people changed my thought a little.

Before going to Fukushima, I was thinking that to stop all of the nuclear power plant as soon as possible is not appropriate, because its negative impact for economy is too big. Still, I think to stop the nuclear plant “right now” is impossible, but I become thinking like even if it is impossible we need to try it. The question “Can you accept building a nuclear plant in the middle of Tokyo?” makes me notice that I was lacking a sense of ownership. “I don’t want a nuclear plant near my house”. I think this feeling is the answer for the Japanese energy policy’s problem.

However there’s one more feeling inside me. “It is difficult to change my lifestyle to lower the electric usage”. These two feelings are conflicting so I haven’t yet make a decision what should I do for many problems related to the disaster. As I know more about the disaster, I feel more difficult to tell what I should do. There are too many things to consider and too various opinion is expressed. Though, I don’t want to give up solving these problems. I will keep concern with these problems and keep thinking until I can reach my conclusion.

I will try to get up-to-date information every time. There’s so many information about this disaster, so I need to select good information, which tell a truth, and with those information I will decide what I should do.

I cannot start a big action before I get out of the confusion. What I can do just now is to tell others what I saw in Fukushima, what I felt during the speech of Fukushima’s people and why I am confused. I hope my message will give a chance to others to start

thinking about the disaster.