

Fukushima Nuclear Disaster

1. The state of emergency based on Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident is still in effect as of March 2017¹. This allows the government to set the safety standard based on effective dose of radiation higher than legal limit defined by the law² and its implementation rule³.
2. The state of suffering of the local area is well-documented by many⁴. The human rights condition and related issues were published as the report by Special Rapporteur Anand Grover in 2013 to HRC⁵⁶
3. Despite significant decontamination effort of the affected areas by the residents, the local communities and the government, there are many locations that are missed out from the procedures. The cleaned spots can easily re-contaminated by the influx from the vicinity that has not been decontaminated and has high dosage of radiation. The enormous number of plastic bags that hold scraped top layer soil have been piled up and some are ready to break.
4. The Olympic Game 2020 in Tokyo is a positive appeal of the nation. However, it should not overshadow the issues that the Japan has to face. Some express concern about hosting baseball and softball games to be held within Fukushima prefecture⁷. The most recent report indicates that the airborne radioactivity level in Fukushima City is higher than elsewhere mentioned in the same report⁸. It is natural to assume the airborne radiation level in Fukushima City prior to the nuclear disaster was similar to the level of the nearby regions in Eastern part of Japan.
5. Currently, the government is proceeding with the return of the evacuated residents to still contaminated areas above 1 mSv/yr radiation. Below 20 mSv/yr applied was the temporary standard at the onset of the state of emergency and far from the international standard.
6. Due to their developmental stage including active duplication of DNA and cell divisions, children are particularly vulnerable to the radiation. Their health condition should be treated with higher standard than that for the adult population⁹.

1 <http://www.kantei.go.jp/saigai/pdf/kinkyujitaisengen.pdf>

2 <http://law.e-gov.go.jp/htmldata/H11/H11HO156.html>

3 <http://law.e-gov.go.jp/htmldata/H12/H12SE195.html>

4 <http://www.greenpeace.org/japan/Global/japan/pdf/Uequal-impact-en.pdf>

5 http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session23/A-HRC-23-41-Add3_en.pdf

6 http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session23/A-HRC-23-41-Add5_en.pdf

7 <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/fukushima-host-olympic-baseball-softball-tokyo-2020-games-n734796>

8 https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/mfa_information_170323_full_report.pdf

9 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4820668/>

Recommendations

1. The government should not lift the ban of return and living in the contaminated before the entire area of concern is below the ICRP standard level, i.e. below 1 mSv/yr radiation. The current level 20 mSv/yr is only permissive under the state of emergency.
2. The government should continue the current financial support for the voluntary evacuees from the contaminated area.
3. The government should do the maximum effort not to let the Olympic game to draw the necessary attention to the issue of the affected area. The Olympic spending for the 2 week event is more than 10 years worth of the rent payment for the evacuees.
4. Children's health should be given a special priority due to their physiological vulnerability compared to the adult population¹⁰. Therefore, the health monitoring should only be expanded to all affected not only within Fukushima Prefecture, but also to the nearby prefectures and the voluntary evacuees around the country. The monitoring of their health conditions of the affected at low age people should never be terminated.
5. The concerned evacuees, those with children in particular should be well-supported outside the affected zone. Their right to health and education should be protected by the state.
6. The government should widen the scope of information to the public.
7. The government should always include the affected victims of the industrial accident as stakeholders and give priority to their human rights including, but not limited to, right to health, right to information, right to self-determination.

¹⁰ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>