

Decontamination and Recovery Aspects of the Fukushima Accident

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Programme of Engagement

- The Japanese government is extremely engaged in developing sustainable and acceptable rehabilitation programmes for all affected territories
- This involves the organisation of many meetings and discussions, including national and international experts, with local officials and members of the public
- This meeting was one of the first such discussions organised by the Japanese, and was supported by the NEA

International symposium – Towards the recovery of the Environment

- Held in Fukushima, October 2011
- To share experience and best practice
- Local and international speakers
- 360 participants
- Organised by Japanese Cabinet Office, with cooperation from OECD NEA and IAEA; and supported by JAEA and JNES



Use of protective criteria for affected populations

- Evacuation where exposure is >20 mSv/year
- The long-term goal post remediation is 1 mSv/year
- Also need provisional goals and “temporary permissible levels” for a stepwise reduction towards long-term goal
- Do not need same reference level at the same time in all areas
- Factors used in exposure estimates must be realistic

Decontamination of land (1)

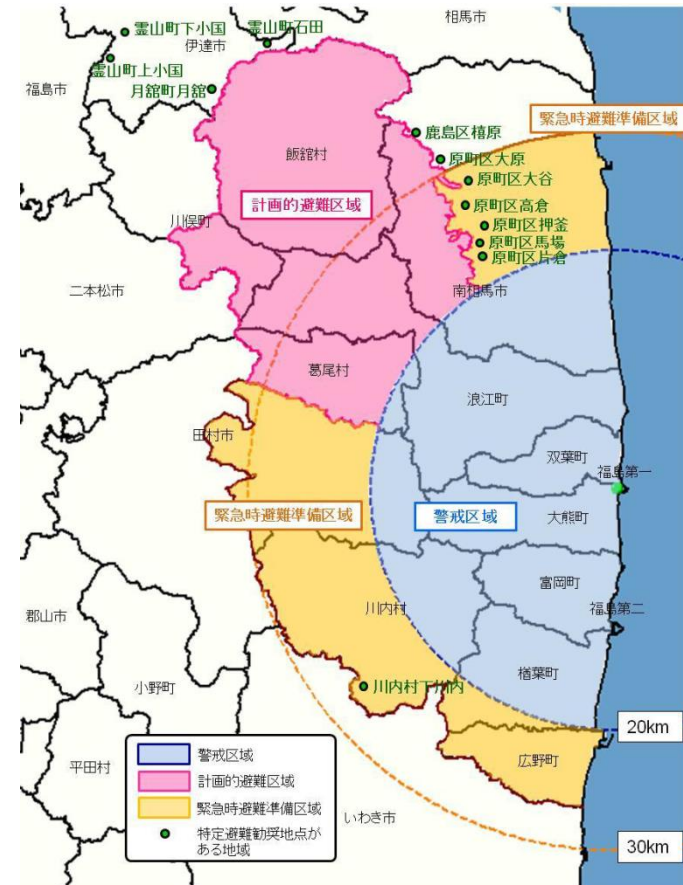
- Must have a clear assessment of radiation levels and their distribution in advance
- A comprehensive justification must be undertaken for each decontamination method, to include
 - quantification and proposed management of waste arising
 - Exposure of workers
- The primary goal must be to reduce doses
- Must set priorities

Decontamination of land (2)

- A wide range of techniques is available
- The cost of many techniques is prohibitive
- Groundwater must be protected
- Removal of topsoil is very popular, but practical measures to deal with waste not fully developed

Living in contaminated areas

- Importance of wide availability of monitoring data
- Often the focus is on evacuation zone, but people living close by have major concerns also
- The designation of zones



Engaging the local population

- Speed of response is crucial to building confidence and trust
- Public communication is essential for a successful decontamination programme
 - detailed information about contamination levels
 - explanation of risks
 - understanding about waste
- Decontamination techniques may be effective, but need public support
- Importance of social and ethical input to decision making

Conclusions

- There is a lot of experience of decontamination techniques available world-wide
- Even the best technical solutions will not be accepted if they are not properly explained and understood
- Recovery is very dependent on public support

- For further information

<http://home.oecd-nea.org/press/2011/NEWS-07.html>