



■A Statement for “Update Fukushima”

[Preface]

In March 2011, Japan saw a series of unprecedented deadly disasters of the Great East Japan Earthquake followed by attacks of tsunami waves and an accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, leading to a large number of human lives lost either directly or indirectly. In Fukushima Prefecture in particular, a large scale of long-term evacuation, heavy mental stress and other adverse factors have caused more disaster-related deaths than direct deaths. However, tragedies do not stop there. People involved in Fukushima residing inside and outside the prefecture still suffer from all sorts of prejudices, bullies, discriminations or other forms of rumor-derived damage.

By taking these circumstances into consideration and in order to remove such rumor-derived damage involving Fukushima, we find it necessary to update(*) the “images about Fukushima” and have the following suggestions to make (*Update refers not to forget about the past but to build on the newest knowledge and learnings gained based on the past experiences).

[Main Content of the Statement]

In order to update the “images about Fukushima,” we have the following attitudes in mind to know about ever-changing Fukushima, learn on our own and communicate what we learn to move forward to build a new society.

1. There are misconceptions and prejudices about Fukushima and discriminations based on them that are still deep-rooted. In order to solve this issue, it is necessary to share true, scientific facts, such as “No genetic impact is brought by radiation exposure. (All women in Fukushima) feel safe to have babies,” with people in general through education.

2. On the other hand, scientific and statistical explanations alone do not solve all issues. To approach individuals to help alleviate their fears or concerns, we need to have such relationships that may allow us to see one another, trust one another and learn from one another, or a scheme of collective approaches (group learning), which will be supported by all of us. On top of it, we also need an approach to communicate information to a broad range of different people inside and outside Japan.



3. At the same time, however, we should become aware of the fact that when we talk about Fukushima, we may sometimes draw a variety of lines between ourselves and people out there. This is another issue we need to face squarely to meet. Such invisible boundaries drawn in our minds include those between people in Tokyo and those in Fukushima, between foreigners and Japanese, between one generation and another and between those experienced in overcoming grief or internal struggles as a result of being hit by disasters or diverse difficulties and those with no such experiences. Under these circumstances, we find it important that all can feel such experiences relevant to themselves to talk about Fukushima beyond their positions.

4. Furthermore, there are new attractions and “hints for new society building” that are emerging one after another in Fukushima. These have global values applicable to many places outside Fukushima, which we think we should actively communicate. We are gaining new knowledge and learnings through a variety of attempts being made to establish Fukushima as the destination for learning for educational trips and training applicable to people in a variety of positions, and approaches being taken by young people to think about the future of regions they live in, for example, and we will communicate such knowledge and learnings as part of the models originating from Fukushima in the future.

With a dynamic shift being made away from “For FUKUSHIMA” toward “From FUKUSHIMA with the Youth,”

we shall have 確信 (Kakushin, confidence), learn and communicate 核心 (Kakushin, or the core part of things) about Fukushima, in which process we will create 革新 (Kakushin, innovation).

Dated February 10, 2018

Prepared by the Update Fukushima Executive Committee

*This statement has been developed by taking comments from participants in the event and questions/comments received before the event into considerations, adding the “Preface” and by changing a “declaration” to a “statement”. In addition, as abiding by the basic points centering on the discussions, we have modified some expressions so that what it is meant by each of the remarks can read easier to understand.