

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Provisional Report regarding Radioactive Contamination in Iitate Village and Recommended Countermeasures**

April 4th, 2011

The TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident has had a significant impact on Iitate Village located in Fukushima Prefecture. Though the village is largely located outside of the mandatory evacuation and recommended indoor evacuation zone, Iitate Village has been found to have high radiation levels in the air as well as soil contaminated with a high level of radioactive material. On March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, the "Iitate Village Radiation Contamination Investigation Team", led by Prof. Tetsuji Imanaka of the Kyoto University Research Reactor Institute, investigated radiation levels in Iitate Village. With the cooperation of the village, the team conducted a detailed and extensive investigation of radioactive contamination in and around Iitate Village. Today, the interim report has been compiled and made available on the Kyoto University Research Reactor Institute's website. This report was mailed to the village by the investigation team.

URL of the Report:

<http://www.rrri.kyoto-u.ac.jp/NSRG/seminar/No110/Iitate-interim-report110404.pdf>

This report clearly states that a concentration of highly radioactive contamination has been found in the southern part of the village, outside of the 30km evacuation zone. In addition, cumulative contamination in some areas since March 15<sup>th</sup> has reached the exposure level where "evacuation" is recommended. Deposits of highly concentrated radioactive cesium were found in the soil. It is believed that these deposits have accumulated from the rain and snow of radioactive clouds, which were induced by the destruction of the second nuclear reactor containment vessel at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant the morning of March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Upon receiving this report, the Village Support Team made the following proposals to the village:

- 1) Demand the Japanese Government and Fukushima Prefecture Government conduct an extensive cleaning of roads and building sites.

- 2) Evacuate indefinitely the villagers of Magata and other highly contaminated areas, where radioactive materials have accumulated in the soil, to areas outside of these contaminated villages or to areas where the concentration of radioactive materials is comparatively low.
- 3) It is highly recommended that children and pregnant women evacuated to other areas, or at a minimum, take shelter inside concrete structures.
- 4) Refrain from any farm-work or other outdoor activities as much as possible.

Needles to say, the village bears no responsibility for this radioactive contamination. However, since the village is designated as an indoor evacuation zone and largely outside of the mandatory evacuation zone, the village has not received any clear recommendation or support from the Japanese Government or from Fukushima Prefecture. In view of this situation, the Village Support Team will be making the following proposals to the Japanese Government and Fukushima Prefecture:

- 1) Prove detailed correspondence, countermeasures and support according to the actual level of contamination and not according to the delineated 30km radius.
- 2) Promptly disclose the results of soil investigations previously conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and other institutions.
- 3) Conduct mid- and long-term studies and promptly disclose the results.
- 4) Implement contamination removal measures immediately.
- 5) Implement healthcare consultation with villagers.
- 6) Compensate costs associated with evacuation and future measures.

Finally, we would like to request your continued support for Iitate Village.

**Koji Itonaga, Representative, Iitate Village Support Team**

(Professor, College of Bioresources Sciences, Nihon University)

\* Note regarding the Iitate Village Support Team: Professor Itonaga's Laboratory at Nihon University's College of Bioresources Sciences has been active for the past 15 years implementing sustainable development in collaboration with Iitate Village. We continue to support Information Gathering, Public Relations, Advisory Services, etc. following the TEPCO nuclear power plant disaster. The members of Professor Itonaga's laboratory are participants of the "Iitate Village Radiation Contamination Investigation Team".