

The International Conference of Citizens and Scientists: Radiation Health Risks and Thorough Examination of the “International Expert Symposium in Fukushima — Radiation and Health Risks”

Venue: National Olympics Memorial Youth Center, on October 12, 2011

Purpose of the Conference

The “International Expert Symposium in Fukushima — Radiation and Health Risks” was held at Fukushima Medical University on September 11 and 12, under the auspices of the Nippon Foundation. The symposium was prepared by an organizing committee formed around Dr. Shunichi Yamashita, Vice-president of Fukushima Medical University and Professor at Nagasaki University. Although the organizing committee heralded its symposium would be attended by “researchers at the forefront” who represent the “wisdom of the world,” the participants from related domestic (the National Institute of Radiological Sciences, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency...) and international organizations (UNSCEAR, ICRP, IAEA and WHO), represented and expressed sectional interests with a high affinity for the nuclear industry. The external evaluation by these “experts” justified and endorsed the following presumed conclusions intended by the Health Examination for Citizens in Fukushima Prefecture, which was conceived and is to be conducted under Dr. Sh. Yamashita’s direction;

- The impact of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accidents are extremely small; and
- Low dose exposure (less than 100 mSv/year) is safe.

In the symposium, “scientific findings” showing low radiation doses are safe were presented in order to “address concerns with the effects of radiation” among the general public, while the “Conclusion and Recommendations” presented at the end offered no proposals or advices to minimize exposure and reduce possible disabilities. All this reminds us of what the IAEA and other UN organizations did with the International Chernobyl Project and the Chernobyl Forum about the health effect of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The International Chernobyl Project concluded in 1991, “[...] future increases over the natural incidence of all cancers or hereditary effects would be difficult to discern, even with large and well designed long term epidemiological studies.” It also attributed most of the health problems to “psychological effects” caused by relocation. The Chernobyl Forum estimated in 2005 Chernobyl cancer deaths at some 4,000, neglecting much higher estimates presented by Belorussian and Ukrainian scientists. We can never allow international organizations to repeat these partial risk assessments and arbitrary epidemiological studies in our region.

We should focus on the latest research on low dose exposure, which ignored the international expert meeting. Based on the results of radiation biology research, in 2005, the National Academies of Science released “BEIR VII” in which a “linear no threshold model” was presented. In 2003, Brenner et al. published their research results in the U.S. National Academy of Sciences’ PNAS that concluded that cancer can be caused from excess cumulative dose of 34 mSv.” E. Cardis at IARC showed that cancers can significantly increase by low dose exposure, based on epidemiological results on the potential effects of external radiation exposure on cohorts of some 200 thousand workers in the nuclear industry in 15 countries. Referring to these results, the European Committee on Radiation Risk (ECRR) objected to the ICRP risk model for underestimating “low dose internal exposure.” Meanwhile, Belarus and Ukraine epidemiological studies, which have been ignored so far by the international organizations, have reported non-cancerous late-

onset disorders due to low dose exposure. They are starting to see the light of day these years, with the publications like “Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment” (New York Academy of Sciences, 2009) and “Health Effects of Chernobyl 20 years after the reactor catastrophe” (German Affiliate of IPPNW, 2010). In light of these findings, health effects from low dose exposure must be addressed in accordance with the “precautionary principle” and demand careful health screening and dose reduction measures.

Beyond the partial experts from bodies like International Expert Symposium and Citizens Health Care Commission and the international expert meeting, we need to extend our exchanges and collaborations with independent domestic and international experts warning about low dose exposure based on cutting-edge research. The planned International Conference of Citizens and Scientists is an initiative by citizens and independent scientists to thoroughly examine the relevance of the discussion done in the International Expert Symposium, and to prepare for a “third party” vigilance organization together with victims of the Fukushima nuclear accidents and supporting citizens to watch the progress of the Fukushima prefecture’s Health Examination for Citizens. (An International Symposium is planned next March).

Time Schedule of the International Conference of Citizens and Scientists

09:00: Doors open
09:30-11:00 Dr. Eisuke Matsui
11:00-12:30 Dr. Hisako Sakiyama
12:30-13:30 Lunch break
13:30-15:00 Dr. Sebastian Pflugbeil
15:00-16:30 Prof. Shoji Sawada

Speakers:

Dr. Eisuke Matsui (MD, Director, Institute of Environmental Medicine, Gifu)
Dr. Hisako Sakiyama (MD, Takagi School)
Dr. Sebastian Pflugbeil (physicist, president of the German Radiation Protection Association)
Prof. Shoji Sawada (theoretical physicist, Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University)

18:00-21:00: Roundtable

Conclusions International Expert Symposium held on September 11-12,
Radioprotection and Communication
Preparation for the international symposium (direction, setup of organizing committees, etc.)

Planned participants in the Roundtable:

Dr. Sebastian Pflugbeil (physicist, president of the German Radiation Protection Association)
Prof. Shoji Sawada (theoretical physicist, Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University)

Dr. Hisako Sakiyama (MD, Takagi School)
and others

Organizer: Say Peace Project, Project 47

Co-organizer: Citizens radioactivity monitoring stations, NPO Say Peace, Takagi School, Exposure to Low-Dose Radiation Research Group, Citizen Science Initiative Japan, ELPIS, FoE Japan, National Network to Protect Children from Radiation