Situation in Kawauchi-mura after the Earthquake and Effort toward Recovery

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From the Occurrence of the Great East Japan Earthquake to the Evacuation of Villagers

Evacuation of all villagers required for the first time since the establishment of Kawauchi-mura more than 120 years ago:

- March 11: At 14:46, the seismic intensity of Level 6- ‘JMA scale) was observed in Kawauchi-mura.
- March 12: About 8,000 citizens of Tomioka-machi evacuated to Kawauchi-mura.
  Police and wide area fire fighting headquarters of Futaba were relocated to Kawauchi-mura.
- March 12: Joint emergency response task force of Kawauchi-mura and Tomioka-machi were established.
- March 13 to 15: Hydrogen explosions took place at Units 1, 3 and 4 of Fukushima Dai-ichi NPS.
- March 14: The whole village area of Kawauchi-mura was designated as sheltering-required zone.
- March 15: Villagers were instructed to evacuate.
- March 16: Residents of Kawauchi-mura and Tomioka-machi evacuated to Koriyama City by a collective evacuation program.
- March 17: At 12:00 AM, the joint emergency response headquarters of Kawauchi-mura and Tomioka-machi were relocated to Koriyama City.
Spatial dose rate from aerial survey (as of April 29)
Earthquake Impacts on Kawauchi-mura

- Anxiety about radioactivity (low dose exposure)
- Population decrease (the risk of losing a half of the population)
  - Most residents are presently in evacuation.
  - Parents with small children hesitate to come back.
  - Some seek new lifestyle and employment in their places of evacuation.
- Collapsing of local communities
  - Disruption of communication after evacuation to diverse localities
  - Suspension of communal activities
- Desolation of farmland
  - Farming given up by increasing number of villagers
  - Farmland left unattended due to the evacuation of owners
  - Restriction on planting
- Worsening of the living environment
- Stagnation of regional economy
Challenges to Homecoming (1)

- Decontamination
  (1) Difference with the Chernobyl accident
    - Decontamination did not cover farmland and forest land.
    - Loss of fertility
    - Question of the treatment of removed soil
  (2) Preparation of detailed contamination maps
    - Survey on contamination level and analysis of soil
    - Cultivating optimum crops at optimum places
  (3) Method and cost-efficiency of decontamination
Challenges to Homecoming (2)

- Securing of employment
  - Attracting manufacturing industry
  - Combined heat and power (CHP) business with wooden biomass
  - Water culture farming
- Implementation of health examination
- Monitoring of food crops
- Improvement of education environment
  - Study and health management at rural resorts
- Improvement of transportation networks
Lost Communities