Activities for Recovery Management in Response to the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi NPP Accident

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Prior to the accident, the national framework for radiation protection in Japan had not fully taken into account situations requiring long term recovery management over wide areas. The specific policies, guidelines and criteria, as well as overall arrangements for transition from the emergency response to the recovery process, were developed after the accident. After TEPCO issued a road map that outlined the steps towards recovery on the site in April, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters issued the Policy for Immediate Actions for the Assistance of Nuclear Sufferers and established a road map that defined the objectives and conditions to be met for returning to normality in May.

This presentation describes the overview of the preparations that were put in place for the long term recovery management along the roadmap from May 2011 to April 2012. This included the following activities: (a) detailed monitoring to characterize the exposure situation; (b) arrangements for the implementation of long term health surveillance; (c) determination of the criteria and procedure for lifting protective actions; (d) formalization of the long term management of radioactive waste; (e) establishment of long term plans for decontamination; (f) rearrangement of areas in which protective actions were in place. Although preparedness for the recovery management was not enough undertaken prior to the accident, good practices can be identified, which include the application of a graded approach using the establishment of the roadmap, which proved to be effective in preparations for long term recovery operations.

Keywords: recovery management, Fukushima Daiichi NPP accident, roadmap