

Support Measures for Evacuee’s Recovery in the Evacuation Areas in Fukushima

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On March 11, 2011, the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station suffered major damage from a massive tsunami caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake. One month later, the Japanese Government designated the areas within 20 km radius from the Nuclear Power Station as the Restricted Areas and the areas where the annual cumulative dose of radiation was expected to reach 20mSv/year as the Deliberate Evacuation Areas, and issued the evacuation orders. At that time, about 80,000 people lived in these areas.

The government provided evacuees with temporary housing and sent staff to provide daily supports. The staff visited evacuees door-to-door, assessed what state they were in and made necessary arrangements so that they can receive sufficient services.

In December 2011, the government presented basic concept for rearranging the evacuation areas, and based on that concept completed the rearrangement in the following year. The government lifted the evacuation orders for the first time in April 2014. Today, it has lifted evacuation orders across much of the region affected by the accident.

When lifting evacuation orders, in order for the evacuees, who would return their homes, to acknowledge their individual dose level after returning, and take measures to reduce their exposure dose based on individual dose data, the government deployed the counselors in each area.

Fukushima reconstruction made steady progress, and in 2018, with TEPCO’s compensation for house rent and provision of temporary housing phasing out, it entered a new phase. As time goes by, challenges faced by evacuees become more individualized and complicated, and so cares had to cover individual needs.

Therefore, to keep evacuees from falling into poverty and support their recovery, relevant ministries gathered to organize existing measures for evacuee’s recovery and strengthen ties between supporting organizations. In July 2018, they finalized the discussion and published the report to reinforce the support measures for evacuee’s recovery.

Based on the finalized measures, Support Team for Residents Affected by Nuclear Incidents is helping evacuee’s recovery by door-to-door visits, supporting them moving to permanent residences and so forth.

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