

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

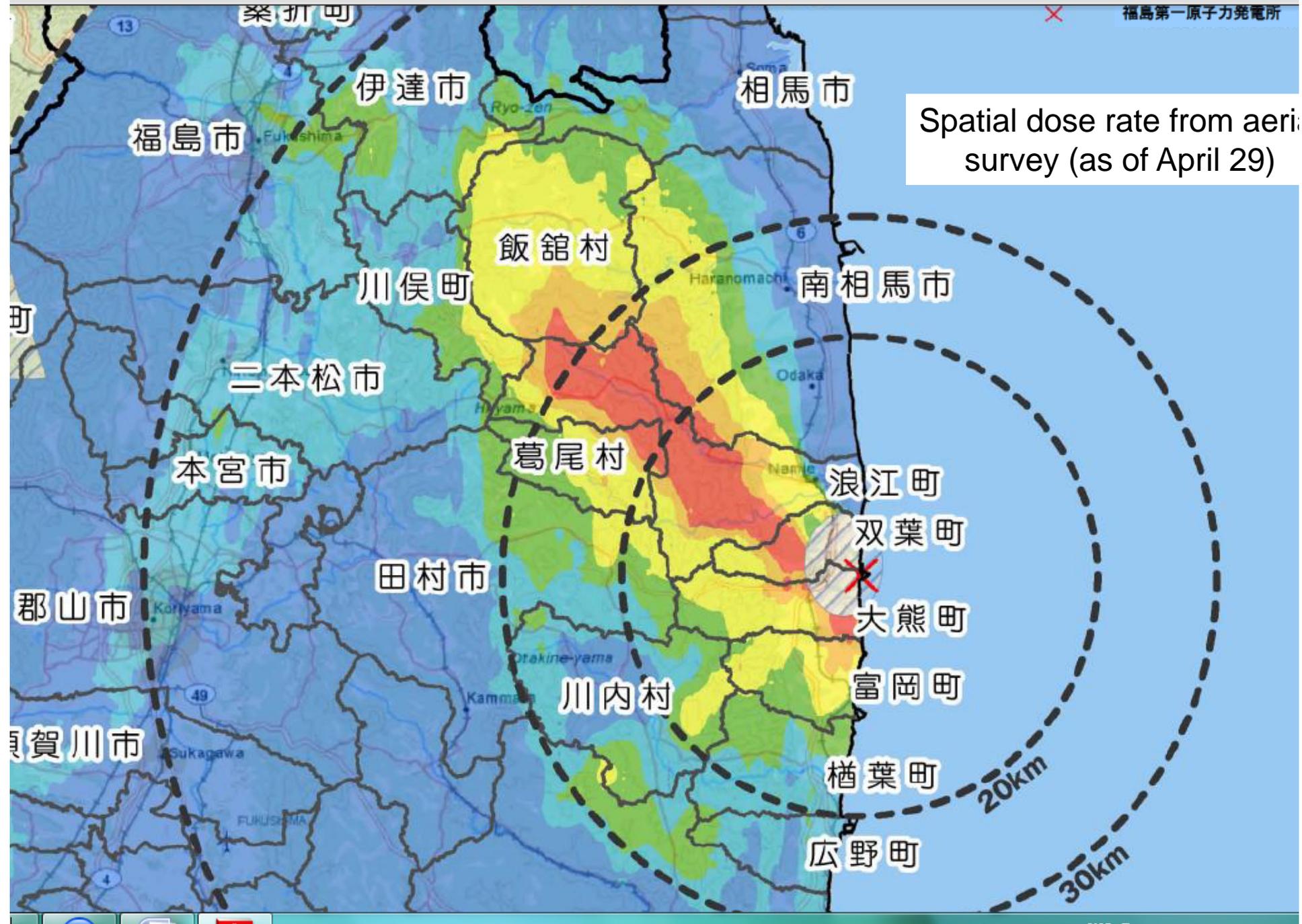


**Yuko Endo, Mayor of Kawauchi-mura,
Fukushima Prefecture**

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.



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

