

Topics Fukushima introduces JAEA's activities related to Fukushima.

Department Head of Kazakhstan Atomic Energy Agency inspects decontamination sites at Date City

On October 30, Mr. Shaiakhmet Shiganakov, Head of the Science and Technology Development Department of the Kazakhstan Atomic Energy Agency, visited sites undergoing decontamination by Date City, and the JAEA Fukushima Environmental Safety Center.

With the cooperation of Date City, on that day Mr. Shiganakov observed the scene of decontamination work (raking fallen leaves and scraping off surface soil) at an ordinary home located near the Oguni Community Center in Date City, and visited the temporary storage yard for removed materials located nearby (see photograph). After that, Mr. Shiganakov exchanged views with JAEA staff at the Fukushima Environmental Safety Center, based on his experience in Kazakhstan, regarding topics such as JAEA's efforts in Fukushima, and methods of decontamination.

During the era of the former Soviet Union, the area of Semipalatinsk was the test site for hydrogen bombs, and thus Kazakhstan has experience dealing with contamination of land over a large area. Mr. Shiganakov indicated his strong interest in Japan's advanced decontamination and radiation measurement technologies, and stated his desire to cooperate in these fields.

"Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Cooperate in the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy" came into effect in May of last year. In addition, in May of this year, when Mr. Yukio Edano (Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry at that time) visited Kazakhstan, a memorandum was signed between the Kazakhstan National Nuclear Center and Toshiba Corporation on studying technologies for treating radioactive waste.

Against this backdrop, Mr. Shiganakov had previously stated that he would like to investigate and exchange views on the impact to the surrounding area due to the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, and the recent meeting was realized on the occasion when he visited

Japan to give a special lecture at the International Topical Meeting on High Temperature Reactor Technology (HTR2012).

