

Topics Fukushima introduces JAEA's activities related to Fukushima.

Participation in Third Groundwater Summit held in Kawauchi-mura —Exhibition of cartridges filled with cesium capturing material

On November 10, the Liaison Council for Safe, Secure and Delicious Groundwater, comprised of 10 municipalities which use groundwater and stream water for daily living, held the Third Groundwater Summit in Kawauchi-mura, and Mr. Junichiro Ishida, Director of the JAEA Fukushima Environmental Safety Center, attended.

This summit was created by the liaison council three years ago, with the aim of passing down the precious water resources to future generations. The council holds the summit every year on November 10 as "Good Well Water Day", which is named after the Japanese pronunciation of 11.10.

The summit brought together the leaders of six municipalities (Kawauchi-mura, Katsurao-mura, Ono-machi, Furudono-machi, Samegawa-mura and Hirata-mura) located in the Abukuma mountains within the prefecture, as well as 10 municipalities from other locations in Japan, such as Higashikawa-cho (Hokkaido Prefecture) and Saijo City (Ehime Prefecture). Since radioactive materials were spread due to the recent accident, the group declared that they will move forward with measures to protect groundwater, in collaboration with relevant organizations such as the Government.

Mayor Yuko Endo of Kawauchi-mura (see photograph), who is also Chairman of the Liaison Council for Safe, Secure and Delicious Groundwater which organized the summit, called for support for regions where residents make use of natural groundwater in a rich environment, and spoke of his hopes of making the summit an opportunity for considering the abundance of nature, the importance of environmental protection, and the true meaning of affluence.

JAEA participated in this summit as a supporting group, as it has conducted demonstrations of decontamination models, and provided support such as internal exposure testing for village residents in Kawauchi-mura. JAEA exhibited and presented cartridges for public water supplies which employ a capturing material to adsorb and remove the radioactive cesium dissolved at low concentration in water. This capturing material was developed by JAEA, working jointly with Kurashiki Textile Manufacturing Co., Ltd., (a Kurabo Group company) by applying a method called electron beam graft polymerization technology*.

<http://www.jaea.go.jp/02/press2012/p12110701/index.html>

Due to the potential for use in producing safe and more secure drinking water, JAEA's exhibition attracted the attention of many participants.



*Electron beam graft polymerization technology: This is a technology developed by JAEA for improving the characteristics of plastics. This is achieved by irradiating a plastic substrate with an electron beam, reacting with a reagent, and thereby introducing branches in molecules similar to tree grafts. It is possible to produce materials which can adsorb and capture metal ions by using nonwoven fabric as the substrate.

Participating in the Groundwater Summit

Junichiro Ishida, Director, Fukushima Environmental Safety Center

In Kawauchi-mura, we are continuing to monitor well water etc., and in all cases results have been at or below detection limits. It is important to protect safe, secure and delicious groundwater for future generations, and I believe this water will continue to be valued and used as drinking water in the future. We would like to thank the many attendees who viewed exhibits, and contributed questions or comments, at the summit. I hope that the research results presented here will bring greater peace of mind to everyone in the affected areas.