



## Human Resource Development beyond Borders

### 17 trainees from Asia receive training for radiation surveys

Fallow fields in which weeds grow to the height of humans (**Photo 1**). In a small area where the weeds have been cut back, English can be heard. A woman with a scarf wrapped around her head. The sound of an electronic survey meter moves through the air. Eight staff members of the JAEA Nuclear Human Resource Development Center divide up the work of giving instructions...

This is Naraha Town, located along the coastal region of Fukushima Prefecture, approximately 15km south from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power



Station.

A region where entry was restricted until August last year. On this day, practical training is being undertaken thanks to the kind permission of the land owner (**Photo 2**).

Commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, a project takes place every year where nuclear industry-related trainees are accepted from various Asian countries in which R&D into and the use of nuclear power have continued to expand. These trainees are given training on nuclear safety, etc., so they can one day become instructors capable of undertaking technical guidance and training in their countries. This time, 17 trainees from eight countries including Malaysia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand are receiving training for approximately 40 days from July 11<sup>th</sup>, over the course of which various programs have been prepared. (**Photo 3**)

Unlike the classroom lectures that have been held so far, today was the day for going out on-site to practice “radiation surveys in Fukushima Prefecture”. Partly due to actually entering “Fukushima”, the bus for transporting the trainees was filled with a tense atmosphere. Upon arriving at the site and witnessing a temporary placement yard located right by the house of a member of the public, and hearing that nobody lived there anymore, a grave look could be seen on the faces of all the trainees. However, once field training began, the trainees, who were split into four teams, each assumed the role they had been assigned, and gradually became more relaxed (**Opening Photo**).



The main activities in this practical training were environmental radiation monitoring and nuclear/radiation emergency response, and basically both activities were involved in monitoring and sampling. Some trainees were holding NaI scintillation survey meters over several places to record radiation levels, and some were locating radiation hotspots as practice for an emergency response. Their serious eyes to read values were impressive (Photo 4).

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Meanwhile, soil sampling was taking place. The soil was transferred to a clear acrylic container carefully so that the condition in the depth direction was not disturbed. Weeds and water samples were also collected and labeled (Photo 5). By cooperating together, despite coming from different countries and speaking different languages, the work was completed almost exactly on schedule (Photo 6).

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One of the trainees spoke of their impression of Fukushima that “through the training, it could be confirmed that although slight amounts of contamination remain, Fukushima is not a dangerous place.”

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The training was held in cooperation with Naraha Town. Nobuyuki Igari, deputy director of the radiation countermeasure division, stated that the town would continue to positively cooperate with human resource development in regard to nuclear safety (Photo 7). In response to such kindness, as members of an R&D institution specializing in nuclear power, the staff of JAEA, who were responsible for the development of human resources this time, had renewed their determination to continue developing human resources who would support a safe nuclear culture in all of Asia.

