



## **Construction of Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation started**

**Ground-breaking ceremonies were held at Miharu Town and Minamisoma City.**

The ground-breaking ceremonies of Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation were held at Miharu Town on May 9, and in Minamisoma City on May 22, 2014. This Centre is being constructed by Fukushima Prefecture for the purpose of early restoration of the environment that was contaminated by radioactive materials due to the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, TEPCO, and the creation of environment where the inhabitants can live with security. As a core facility to conduct research and development on decontamination technology and environmental dynamics of radioactive materials, detailed radiation monitoring, etc., the Centre has become a key project for the restoration plan promoted by Fukushima Prefecture. The main facilities of the Centre will be constructed in two separate sites, Miharu Town and Minamisoma City.

Mr. Yuhei Sato, the Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, and other related persons (in total about seventy persons) attended the ground-breaking ceremony in Miharu Town. The Governor Yuhei

Sato, Mr. Shinji Inoue (Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment), Mr. Yoshitami Kameoka (Parliamentary Secretary for Reconstruction), and Mr. Masaaki Tanaka (Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) broke the ground and prayed the safety of construction work. In windy and slightly cloudy weather, the ceremony was performed under solemn atmosphere, surrounded by a large number of media people.

The Governor Sato said in his greeting, “In order to recover the beautiful and fruitful prefectural land, we have been preparing for the foundation of Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation in Miharu Town and Minamisoma City as a base for conducting investigation and research toward the recovery and creation of the environment. Cooperating closely with the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) and National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) that will use the research building of the Centre in Miharu Town, we are planning to conduct research on decontamination technology and investigation of dynamics of radioactive materials. Further, we will also join the cooperative project with IAEA. Through such cooperation, we will promote the investigation and research gathering the wisdom in the world. In the communication building of the Centre, a theater providing a 360-degree view will be constructed, where children can enjoy learning, or learn in a fun and interesting way, the environment of Fukushima Prefecture. I hope it will promote the children’s ability to think about future.”



Mr. Shojiro Matsuura, President of JAEA (=Photo on the left) said, “After the Great East Japan Earthquake, JAEA has established Fukushima Office in Fukushima City at the end of June, 2011. Based on this office, we have made various efforts for recovery and reconstruction in cooperation with Fukushima Prefecture, such as environmental monitoring, measurements with whole-body counter, the model decontamination project in living environment, and vehicle-borne survey using public transportation. For the research on environmental dynamics, we are continuing the measurements using state-of-the-art technology. I believe that Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation will become the most important research hub in the world. It is our important mission to be involved in the activities in this Centre. JAEA will make efforts for human resource development, information sharing and communication activities in cooperation with the government, Fukushima Prefecture, Miharu Town and Tamura City. We sincerely hope that our efforts will help the residents return home and live in the hometown at ease.”

In the ground-breaking ceremony held in Minamisoma City, the Governor Sato, Mr. Inoue (Senior Vice-Minister of the Environment), Mr. Kameoka (Parliamentary Secretary for Reconstruction), and Mr. Tanaka (Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,



Science and Technology) broke the ground. Mr. Sato (=Photo on the left) said in his greeting, “This year, the 4<sup>th</sup> year from the Great East Japan Earthquake, is defined as a year of Fukushima renovation to clarify the outline of new Fukushima. We will continue the close collaboration with all of you and work for the earliest environmental recovery”.



Mr. Yoshinori Moriyama, Executive Director of JAEA (=Photo on the left) said, “JAEA, as the sole comprehensive research and development institute in the field of nuclear energy in Japan, has been making various efforts for the recovery and reconstruction, such as analysis and measurements of environmental samples, whole-body counter measurements for prefectural inhabitants, the decontamination model project, communication activities for answering questions about radiation, and dispatch of experts on decontamination to the government and local

governments. Based on the Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation that will be constructed in Minami Soma City, we will energetically promote the research especially on remote radiation monitoring using unmanned helicopters.”

Fukushima Prefectural Centre for Environmental Creation in Miharu Town has 46,000 m<sup>2</sup> area, where a main building, a research building, and a communication building will be constructed. The main building is scheduled to open in July 2015. JAEA will use the research building. In cooperation with the National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) that will use the same research building and Fukushima Prefecture, JAEA will conduct the investigation and research for the recovery and creation of the environment.

The Centre in Minamisoma City has 18,000 m<sup>2</sup> area, where a main building and a facility for calibration of radiation detectors will be constructed. It will open in April 2015. The first floor of the main building is the radiation analyzing and monitoring area of Fukushima Prefecture, where radiation monitoring and safety monitoring around the nuclear power station will be conducted. The second floor is the investigation and research area of JAEA, where development of radiation measurement technology and investigation and research for



Conceptional drawing of a research building that will be constructed in Minamisoma City (cited from the brochure published by Fukushima Prefecture)

the environmental restoration and creation will be conducted. On the north side of the main

building, a facility for calibration of radiation detectors will be constructed. In the same area, Hama-dori Agricultural Renovation Research Center (tentative name) and Fukushima Daiichi Off-site Center (tentative name) will be also constructed.

**TOPICS Fukushima No.49**

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