



### **Thirteen persons from Asian countries received radiation survey training**

A practical training of radiation survey was held in July, 2014 in Naraha Town, Fukushima Prefecture. Due to Typhoon No.8, which was one of the strongest ones attacking Japan in July, the training had been a little postponed from a scheduled day. Although there were some clouds, the temperature was about 30 degrees. So it was really muggy. However, the trainees from Asian countries gave no sign that they were feeling hot.

This practical training of radiation survey is one of the trainings conducted in the framework of “International Exchanges for Radiation Application Techniques (training for lecturers)” entrusted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan. The training started in 1996 for the people from Indonesia and Thailand. This year, 13 trainees from eight Asian countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia) participated in the training. This was the 4<sup>th</sup>

training conducted in Fukushima Prefecture since 2011. Since last year, thanks to the cooperation by Naraha Town Office, the practical training has been conducted in a fallow rice field. This year, it was also conducted at the same fallow rice field as last year.

Watched by media people, the trainees started preparing for the practical training just after getting off the bus. The right photo shows the trainees confirming and carrying the necessary instruments. As one trainee who had participated in the training last year joined as an advisor, everything went smoothly.



In August 2012, the designation of the town changed from “the restricted area” to “the area to which evacuation orders are ready to be lifted”. In February 2014, the Joban Expressway (between Hirono IC and Joban-Tomioka IC) was reopened. Also, the JR Joban line between Hirono station (Hirono town) and Tatsuta station (Naraha town) resumed operation in June 2014. Thus, the preparation of the environment for the residents’ returning home has been advanced step by step. It seemed more traffic in the roads nearby compared with last year.

The contents of practical training this year include three issues; 1) measurement of air dose rate, 2) sampling of soil/weed and water, and 3) sampling of air. The trainees first learned sampling of air using a machine called “dust sampler” for about an hour. The dust sampler generated large noise like vacuum cleaner.

Next, they learned the sampling of soil. They carefully took soil with a shovel and put it into the container without turning it upside-down.

In the training, the trainees were divided into groups. In each group, the trainings were conducted under friendly atmosphere, probably because a feeling of fellowship grew up during long-time training.



A trainee from Bangladesh gave a frank comment on the present status of Fukushima to a local reporter, saying, “Many people in my country believe that the radiation level in Fukushima is very high and I was one of them before coming to Fukushima. But when I actually measured the radiation here, the dose rates were about 0.2  $\mu\text{Sv/h}$ . I realized that the radiation dose rates in Fukushima are almost the same as the background level in Bangladesh. I will let the people in my country know this fact.” Another female trainee from Malaysia made a similar comment.



After the training, the trainees visited the Tenjinmisaki-Sports-Park in Naraha Town. The right photo shows the scenery seen from the southern side of the Park. They saw

the temporal storage area where crane trucks and black lumps were piled up and the chimneys of Hirono Steam Power Station. Both facilities were seemed closer than they really were, because they were so large.

Three years have passed after the earthquake disaster. This practical training for Asian people has attracted much attention from mass media. We hope that their experiences in the practical training in Fukushima will help the future development of human resources in nuclear energy field.

#### **TOPICS Fukushima No.51**

Fukushima Administrative Department

Sector of Fukushima Research and Development

Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)

Address: Fukushima /NBF Unix Building 1F 6-6, Sakae-machi, Fukushima-shi,  
Fukushima 960-8031, Japan

Phone : (+81)-24-524-1060 Fax : (+81)-24-524-1073

HP : <http://fukushima.jaea.go.jp/english/index.html>