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Issues of Decontamination by Municipalities after “Completion of Decontamination”

Kota KAWASAKI*

Faculty of Symbiotic Systems Science, Fukushima University (1 Kanayagawa, Fukushima 960-1296, Japan)

Summary

Fukushima Prefecture was contaminated with large amounts of radioactive materials by the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station caused by the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake of March 11, 2011. Although decontamination based on the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Handling of Radioactive Pollution has been implemented, it was completed in most municipalities by the end of March 2017 which is six years after the accident. This study discusses issues of decontamination after “completion of decontamination” in 52 out of the 59 municipalities in Fukushima Prefecture, that is, in all municipalities except for the 7 whose entire administrative area has been designated as Special Decontamination Area based on questionnaire surveys to the 52 municipalities. This study clarifies that many issues concerning decontamination are left. This study identifies (1) early completion of interim storage facilities and development of institutional and financial conditions to store removal soils at temporary storage sites and decontamination sites, (2) implementation of “decontamination” of forests, rivers and reservoirs to restore environments based on a new act, and (3) implementation of follow-up decontamination in accordance with the characteristics of places as one of a mean of radiation protection measures as main issues concerning decontamination.

Key Words: Decontamination, Intensive contamination survey area, Revitalization, Municipality, Fukushima
