

Dr. Ohtsura Niwa spoke describing “A gap between radiation science and humanity”. He had studied the radiation exposure of survivors of nuclear weapons detonations and reviewed the radiation levels experienced by people near the Fukushima accident. He saw that the exposure would not have severe health effects and went to Fukushima to relieve people’s concerns. His experience is best described in his own words:

Experience of my side in Fukushima

How my lectures in Fukushima did?

→ it did badly and met with strong skepticisms and distrusts of people

Why?

→ I was too eager to transfer the scientific knowledge of radiation science, without trying to understand the needs of people in Fukushima

ironically, activists did well since their words were in line with the people’s concern

What should I do?

I helped ICRP to start Dialogue Seminar and I myself moved to Fukushima to live

He found himself “Listening to people on a range of subjects; living in the affected lands, food, education, return or not, culture & heritage, litate, Minamisoma, radiation dose, etc.”.

He reflected on the fact that each of us is the main player in our daily lives. But for the Fukushima residents exposed to the accident releases he noted that “Radiation becomes the main player of your life”.

What we learned?

What to be done on people in the affected land

→ Help people to regain the position of main player of their life

How?

→ Help them to take action on their surroundings such as radiation dose measurement around their living place and food to eat

Final goal

→ help people to gain freedom from radiation