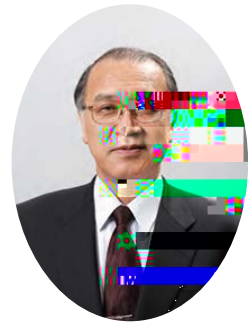


Message from the President on the Publication of *The Great East Japan Earthquake/Fukushima Nuclear Disaster and Hiroshima University*



We are pleased to announce the publication of *The Great East Japan Earthquake/Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Disaster and Hiroshima University*. The Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011, and the ensuing nuclear disaster at the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) brought unprecedented devastation to Japan. The recovery and reconstruction from which will take several decades. This major catastrophe can also be viewed as a wake-up call to Japanese society regarding overconfidence in science and technology and a neglect of the importance of coexisting with nature.

Immediately following the earthquake/tsunami, dual natural disasters, and ensuing nuclear accident, Hiroshima University dispatched its Radiation Emergency Medical Assistance Team. With this first dispatch we began providing medical assistance and other kinds of support for reconstruction efforts in the disaster-hit areas, particularly Fukushima Prefecture where the nuclear power plant accident occurred. We recognize that assistance with reconstruction efforts in the disaster-hit areas as one of our most important missions and have engaged in relevant support activities primarily for two reasons: 1) Hiroshima University has been selected as a tertiary radiation emergency medical institution for the Western Japan Block and, therefore, is expected to play a pivotal role in providing radiation emergency medical care in the event of nuclear disasters; and 2) the university was founded in the world's first city to have ever suffered an atomic bombing. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the faculty and staff of Hiroshima University for their thorough understanding of and earnest devotion to that mission. I am also proud to note that

many of our faculty, staff members, and students have, of their own volition taken the initiative to plan and implement various support activities for the disaster-stricken regions.

Despite the eager support activities conducted by Hiroshima University as well as many other organizations and individuals from both inside and outside the country, recovery and reconstruction from the devastation of the earthquake, the tsunami, and the radiation disaster fall far below the expectations of the residents of the disaster-hit areas, thus posing numerous challenges. In the years to come, in order to enhance our activities we believe it will be necessary to further strengthen our cooperation with the municipalities and organizations involved.

Almost two years have passed since we started our post-disaster support activities. At this juncture, we have decided to publish *The Great East Japan Earthquake/Fukushima Nuclear Disaster and Hiroshima University* in order to

Table of Contents (provisional)

Message from the President on the Publication of *The Great East Japan Earthquake/Fukushima Nuclear Disaster and Hiroshima University*

Toshimasa Asahara (President, Hiroshima University) 1

The Great East Japan Earthquake and Hiroshima University 8

Chapter 1 Reviewing Two Years of Radiation Emergency Medical Assistance

Determination to Make All-Out Efforts to Help Fukushima Recover From the Nuclear Accident as Researchers Based in Hiroshima, the World's First City to Suffer an Atomic Bomb Attack

Kenji Kamiya (Director of Radiation Emergency Medicine Promotion Center) 12

Fulfilling Responsibilities as a Tertiary Radiation Emergency Medical Institution

Mitsuo Ochi (Special Assistant to the President of Hiroshima University
Former Director of Hiroshima University Hospital) 14

The Importance of Accurate Knowledge Is Brought Home to Us

Kazuaki Chayama (Executive and Vice President of Hiroshima University
Director of Hiroshima University Hospital) 16

Spending Tense and Hectic Days

Ryoichi Nishida (Former Executive Manager of the Management Support Office of
Hiroshima University Hospital) 18

Chapter 2 From Hiroshima to Fukushima

Soul-Searching Experience as a Radiation Biology Researcher Daisuke Iizuka (Radiological Specialist)	34
Sense of Helplessness Felt in the Face of Dying Elderly People Daizaburo Hirata (Doctor)	36
Conducting Screening at the Public Health Center on Patients in Need of Nursing Care Naoko Takeoka (Nurse)	38
Feeling Our Way through the Mission with No Operation Standards Natsuko Kimoto (Nurse)	40

(3) Screening Residents for Radioactive Contamination

Examining the Level of Radiation Accumulated in Children's Thyroid Glands Satoshi Tashiro (Doctor)	42
Reality of Radiation Survey of Children's Thyroid Glands in Kawamata-Machi Shoji Mihara (Doctor)	44
Building an Examination System from Scratch Hiroomi Sumida (Radiological Technologist)	46
My Heart Ached to See Children in Contaminated Clothes Nobukazu Abe (Radiological Technologist)	48
Always Keeping Radiation Exposure Control in Mind Yuji Akiyama (Radiological Technologist)	50
Ready for Action Even While in Bed Toshio Fujimoto (Clerical Staff)	52

(4) Medical Activities at J-Village

Importance of Sharing Feelings Associated with the Mission Masafumi Mizooka (Doctor)	54
Working the Best We Could with Limited Supplies Junko Otodani (Nurse)	56
Sharing Knowledge across Job Boundaries Keiichi Hara (Clerical Staff)	58

Chapter 3 Caring Deeply about the Disaster-Stricken Areas

Major Responses to the Accident at Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Company Yoshio Hosoi (Former Deputy Director, Radiation Emergency Medicine Promotion Center)	62
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(1) Special Medical Examination for Internal Exposure at Fukushima Medical University

Supporting Secondary Radiation Emergency Medicine at Fukushima Medical University Masao Kiguchi (Radiological Technologist)	64
Researchers Should Take the Initiative in Providing On-Site Support. Shinji Suga (Technical Staff)	66

(2) Supporting Residents' Temporary Return Home

Providing Continuous Support for Residents' Temporary Return Home Akira Sakai (Doctor)	68
Our Greatest Concern – Heatstroke Shinya Matsuura (Doctor)	70
Working Hard to Grasp the Situation of People Who Would Visit Their Homes Hirotaka Matsui (Doctor)	72
Struggling to Make Adjustments Due to the Difference in Responses of Individual Institutions Eiji Nishimaru (Radiological Technologist)	74
Residents Complain of the Prohibition of Taking Out Foodstuffs. Chikako Fujioka (Radiological Technologist)	76
Joining DMAT Based on Valuable Experience Hidehisa Yamaoka (Radiological Technologist)	78
Saying “Welcome Back” to Residents Who Returned with Much Baggage Kafumi Nishinaka (Nurse)	80
Caring Deeply about the Hearts of Residents Tomohiro Sasa (Nurse)	82
Relieved by Residents' Smiles Yasuhiro Ochi (Nurse)	84
Trying to Provide the Best Support from the Perspective of the Disaster Victims Teruo Nishioka (Clerical Staff)	86
Appreciating the Value of Simply Talking Kengo Toda (Clerical Staff)	88

(3) Emergency Medical Room in the Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant

Using Our Knowledge of Radiation and Emergency Medicine Yasumasa Iwasaki (Doctor)	90
Creating a Manual for Nursing Care Activities in the Emergency Medical Room Ryota Iiboshi (Nurse)	92

(4) Supporting in the Background

Taking Charge of Transporting Goods and People on Site Takao Fujioka (Clerical Staff)	94
Connecting Individual Institutions through Web Conferences Takuma Sadamori (Doctor)	96
Securing Personnel Ready for Emergencies Masahiko Nishida (Clerical Staff)	98
Engaging in Support Activities as a Disaster Victim Tomoaki Watanabe (Clerical Staff)	100

Chapter 4 University-Wide Efforts for the Earthquake

(1) As a Specialist

Helping to Identify the Deceased	
Hiroko Oka (Dentist)	104
Creating a Tsunami Damage Map Based on Aerial Photographs	
Hideaki Goto (Geological Surveyor)	106
Radioactive Contamination Survey and Information Disclosure Should Be Continued.	
Kiyoshi Sizuma (Radiation Physicist)	108
Supporting Prescription Work at the Ofunato Hospital which Escaped Devastation	
Satoru Izumitani (Pharmacist)	111
Supporting the Health of Disaster Victims	
Michiko Moriyama (Nurse)	113
My First Experience of Visiting Care and Rehabilitation	
Takuya Niimoto (Orthopedic Doctor)	115
What I Witnessed in Miyagi and Fukushima	
Yukio Urabe (Physiotherapist)	117
Providing Medical Care to Patients with Cerebrovascular and Other Disorders	
Tomoyuki Kono (Neurological Doctor)	119

(2) As a Student Volunteer

Happy to Hear the Words, “Come Again”	
Sara Enomoto (Captain, First Dispatch Team of the <i>Tsunagari-Tai</i>)	121
Listening to Requests of Residents through Home Visits at Temporary Housing	
Akari Ichigi (Captain, Second Dispatch Team of the <i>Tsunagari-Tai</i>)	123
Interacting with Disaster Victims on a One-to-One Basis	
Haruka Onimura (Captain, Third Dispatch Team of the <i>Tsunagari-Tai</i>)	125
There Are as Many Needs as the Number of People	
Tsumugi Tomiie (Captain, Fourth Dispatch Team of the <i>Tsunagari-Tai</i>)	127
Efforts for Reconstruction Leading to Regional Development	
Yoshiaki Teramoto (Captain, Fifth Dispatch Team of the <i>Tsunagari-Tai</i>)	129
<i>Afterword</i>	134