

Afterword

On March 11, 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake (an earthquake of unprecedented and devastating magnitude) struck an extensive area of Eastern Japan. The ensuing nuclear disaster that occurred at TEPCO's Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant resulted in the release of massive amounts of radioactive substances into the environment, leaving a legacy of anxiety and concern about radiation exposure that yet linger today, three years after the accident.

In response to this disaster, Hiroshima University has made university-wide efforts to provide radiation emergency medical care and various other types of assistance to the disaster-hit areas. In the field of radiation emergency medicine, in particular, the university has played a central role as a tertiary radiation emergency medical institution, in cooperation with the National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS). So far, the university has dispatched a total of 1,300 experts to aid in radiation emergency medical assistance.

This booklet contains testimonials written by a range of 55 faculty members, staff, and students of Hiroshima University who have participated in post-disaster support activities during the past two years. While the number of words for each writer was limited, all contributors describe their experiences and feelings candidly.

In 1977, Hiroshima University published *Research on Atomic Bomb Disaster at Hiroshima University: "The Fire of Life and Death" Academic Edition*, a collection of articles concerning various aspects of the atomic bomb disaster written by experts across diverse fields ranging from natural sciences to the humanities. Then university President, Haruo Takeyama, described the significance of the publication as follows: "As scholars and students learning at an academic institution founded in a place where many local people lost their lives in the atomic bomb disaster, we publish this book to mourn for those who died. At the same time, in the belief that the ultimate goal of learning is the welfare of mankind, we at Hiroshima University are determined to make a close scrutiny again of the atomic bomb disaster, which is an unforgettable event in human history and the inner motivation for the university's academic pursuits."

In the same way, this collection of records aims to reexamine our past efforts and thereby find ways to improve our future assistance activities. It is our strong hope that, with the knowledge and experience that Hiroshima University has accumulated concerning the atomic bomb disaster as the inner motivation for its academic pursuits, we can help disaster victims not only in Fukushima but also in all regions affected by the earthquake/tsunami and nuclear accident.

Under the leadership of Chairman Kenji Kamiya, Director of the Radiation Emergency Medicine Promotion Center, the editorial committee comprising Kiyoshi Yamane (Leader of the General Affairs Group, Financial and General Affairs Office), Mitsue Waki (Leader of Public Relations Group), Shigeo Hayashi (Leader of the Medical Policy Group), and Masaya Yamauchi (member in charge of public relations and coordination, designated by Hiroshima University Hospital), carried out the editorial work. Photographs of on-site activities were provided by Hisaya Azuma, Clerical Supervisor of the Radiation Emergency Medicine Promotion Center. The cover design is the work of Haruki Tamaru, a second-year student majoring in Art Education in the Faculty of Education, Cluster 4. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to each one of them for their respective contributions.

With regard to job titles, we used the titles that the writers used when addressing themselves. Any inconsistency in this regard is the editors' responsibility.

March 1, 2013
Masaya Yamauchi
Editorial Committee

The Great East Japan Earthquake, Fukushima nuclear power plant accident and Hiroshima University

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Hiroshima University

Kagamiyama 1-3-2, Higashi-hiroshima 739-8511 Japan

Tel +81-82-422-7111

Publishing House:

Keisuisha, Co., Ltd.

Komachi 1-4, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 730-0041 Japan

Tel +81-82-246-7909 Fax +81-82-246-7876

E-mail info@keisui.co.jp