

## **FOLENS Fukushima Visit 17-18 Dec 2012**

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What we can see in the news, what we can read in the Internet, it is often different from the reality. The mass media showing us the main facts, figures, events, but these feelings are different from real feelings. Thanks to Folems, which was organized this trip, we had been opportunity to see the real situation with our own eyes which was destructed by tsunami and the area which were contaminated by radioactive.

Talking with the local people and knowing their plans and dreams, I was admired that there are still people thinking not only themselves, but they are thinking their own prosperity. Interesting points is that the people are trying to solve some issues and to help to each other despite of neglecting their health conditions.

From my view of point, "How people imagine the world" is important, if change the people's imagination or view of the world; in that case we overcome fear of the word «Radiation». However, high contaminated areas to do agriculture for food, feed for livestock are dangerous. The research had found that the spreading of radiation has not continuous character, and there is a «spot» of radionuclides. In addition, the areas with a low of radiation are suitable for agriculture (soil cultivation technology, crops with a low level of accumulation of radionuclides, balanced level of mineral and organic fertilizers etc.) and products are completely safe for human health.

After the first year of accidents, peoples from other prefecture were bought products from Fukushima to support and for solidarity. But in the second year the demand for Fukushima products has decreased, because people prefer to buy more ecology fruits and vegetables from safety prefecture. From view of point of psychology, the change stereotypes in people's minds take a long time, but more often it is simply not possible.

If look the situation in my country, after Chernobyl accidents had happened more than 20 years before, the fear of people have gradually decreased. After an accident, in all regions of Belarus people measured radiation levels, but now they realize that all products in the shops and markets undergo strict radiological control. From my opinion, this is a matter of time.

After back from Fukushima Study Trip I had conducted small research in Tokyo supermarkets. Based on my survey I had recognized that Fukushima agricultural products almost don't selling.

How do we solve these issues? From my opinion, there are several ways, how to make a «fruit and vegetables from Fukushima» to attract buyers

-To grow unique fruits and vegetables from Fukushima. Even before the accident, the region was famous for high quality of fruits and vegetables.

-To increase share technical crops, such as biofuel sources. This will help to reclaim land and to develop alternative fuels.

-To establish processing of agricultural products. For example, produce of jams, marmalades and frozen vegetables.

-To develop greenhouse production (parsley, lettuce, dill) on artificial substrates, which will help to prevent the absorption of radionuclides from the soil.

-To implement crop cultivation with high absorption capacity for rapid remediation soil.

-To plant trees on the land with a high level of contaminated area.

Successful farming in Fukushima will contribute not only remediation of contaminated land. Although to develop regional economy and create a new job, as well as returning residents which were evacuated to nearby provinces.

I was concerned the problem of land use which was damaged by tsunami. There are different view of point experts and previous residents. Older people want to return to their homes, but young people are looking for a new life from another safety area for their future prosperity.

What can we do with damaged areas? One of the solution is planting tree (endemic and unique to Japan) in damaged areas. This could be a recreational area and the place of remembrance of this terrible accident.

Study trip to Fukushima gave me a lot of interesting lessons which consequences of major accidents in Japan, work and life in the local residents. From my opinion, the most important thing where everybody have to pay attention is: «Everyone can choose what can do he/she such kind situation». And the strength of will and dreams of Fukushima residents should be to us another example that only together we can achieve.