

## **Citizenship in the face of Disaster- a case of Fukushima**

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Prior to March 11 of 2011, the awareness and knowledge of radiation among the Japanese population had remained largely rather vague and skewed partially due to media and long absence of systematic teaching and learning schemes about radiation in the primary and secondary school levels. The education policies for Radiation Education in the Japanese compulsory education have seen several changes in the post-war era. This may have resulted the general public to have the limited access to the knowledge on radiation, including its various usage, risk and effects. Non subject-educational programs might have had some reference to radiation. For example, Peace Education has long passed down the historic and traumatic experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. About radiation, however, it was observed that the injuries from the heat wave and the blast were despite the narratives particularly focused on the long-lasting health implications in the nuclear bombing.

Various Radiation Education initiatives have been created and implemented after 2011. Focused analysis on the contents, methods and purposes reveals that many are initially very content-driven in nature, not necessarily catered to the specific local contexts generated by the Fukushima NPP accidents. Moreover, the excerpts from various programs conducted in and outside of Fukushima show even the most important aim of Radiation Education can vary greatly among each initiative. In the aftermath of the radiation disaster, children and youngsters of the affected society are often regarded as "hope" that will eventually take charge of reconstruction in their damaged hometowns. Such expectation for citizenship can also be found in Radiation Education programs. This research includes the interviews of the starting members of Radiation Education in Fukushima Prefecture, and of university students in and outside of Fukushima, as well as the materials from lesson observation in litate Village. Some examples for alternative approaches in Radiation Education with the different learning scopes that are crucially neglected in the current RE initiatives will also be presented.