

This field trip was my second visit to Hamadori in Fukushima; but all the destinations arranged for this trip were places I had never visited before. Through this trip, my understanding of Fukushima — which was still insufficient — was deepened. I would like to thank everyone who made efforts for organizing this trip.

One of the things that left me strong impression during this trip was the Interim Storage Facility. I had complicated feelings towards the scenery that I saw when I was on and got off the bus. Houses damaged by the great earthquake were still untouched. As to the Prefectural Fishery Institute struck by huge tsunami, only its building frame remained. Decrepit buildings and vehicles were there without maintenance work, and overgrowing weeds were there also, despite the cold weather. On the other hand, there were gigantic facilities and long conveyer belts spread across the interim storage. Soils were accumulated at the height of more than 10 meters. There should also be numerous damp cars if it were on the working days, of which we could not see upon the visit and just heard of, as we visited there during the weekend. Also, the presence of invisible radioactive rays. And the notice that shows the air dose rate. The check of the radiological dosage with dosimeter before exiting the special area, and the rate was of course, under the reference value. How should I grasp such mixed feelings in my mind? What would be the most appropriate expressions to convey such feelings? I still do not know.

What I would like to touch upon here is the soil we saw. If one sees that soil without knowing its background, s/he might see the land as if it was such topography inherited from the ancient times. However, this land was once owned by someone, and there were lives and activities of the residents. Nonetheless, this land was filled with the soil. Except the workers, no one was there.

But this place is “interim storage” after all, and the stored soil is to be transported to the outside of Fukushima Prefecture for the final disposal within 30 years from the start of the ISF. In other words, that soil is going to be taken away someday. Once the removal is over, what would remain and be created?

It is probable that buildings which has lost track of the time since that day, parts of that soil, and some of facilities and machines for the interim storage will be kept as its remains. But the basic principle is that all of them are to be removed in the coming decades. Indeed, I can understand that they will be removed under the legal rules, but I could not picture this land after the removal when I stood there. And I have been unable to visualize it even until now.

Once the 30 years is over, what should we create in this place? Will the lives of residents come back? Should we sow seeds for the new natural environment, or should we construct industrial sites,

perhaps? How should we take the desires of people who resided there until that day into account? How should we balance their wishes with the feasibility? I was so overwhelmed by anguish, and there was no sign of any potential gateways coming out from me.

What I believe to be a clue for the hope is to listen to the voices of local people more. The *kataribe* person, who guided us in Tomioka Town, told us that ways of handling their experience differs from person to person. Thus, I have realized that it is essential to listen to opinions, views, and hopes of various people. Listening to their voices must help deepen our understanding of Fukushima.

I would like to, and have to know more.