

Prospect for the coexistence of communities between existing local people and refugees from the nuclear power plant accident: A case study on Nakoso district, Iwaki-shi, Fukushima

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[SYNOPSIS]

The objective of this study is to clarify the possibilities and issues of the coexistence of communities between existing local people and refugees from the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident through the case study of Nakoso district, Iwaki-shi, Fukushima. In Nakoso district, a large-scale public housing complex is planned to be constructed for the refugees from Futaba-machi, where was seriously contaminated by the nuclear power plant accident. This housing complex is expected to be a core community facility for the refugees all over Japan from Futaba-machi.

From December 2014, a local civic group in Nakoso has conducted workshop activities for the coexistence of communities with local people and the refugees from Futaba-machi in collaboration with some administrative staff in local municipality both of Iwaki-shi and Futaba-machi, supported by our laboratory of Shibaura Institute of Technology. In October 2015, the civic group conducted the walking event for both local people and the refugees to explore the district adjacent to the construction site for the public housing complex. In addition to these activities, we conducted the interview surveys with the relevant persons.

Analyzing the comments and suggestions obtained from our surveys, we concluded that the most significant problem is the lack of opportunities to exchange people between both communities in addition to the gap of compensation between affected people. Because the local government can hardly deal with residents who belong to the different municipality, local civic groups should play an important role to promote community exchange programs and events in collaboration with many local actors including the relevant municipalities.