

Long-term Post-reconstruction Revitalization Policies for Municipalities Affected by the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster after Reconstruction Period

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[SYNOPSIS]

The purpose of this study is to analyze the current status of Fukushima Nuclear Disaster victims and of disaster-affected municipalities in order to identify issues that should be addressed in post-reconstruction revitalization policies. Chapter 1 describes the purpose and significance of this study. Chapter 2 analyzes the history and presents the status of Futaba Town as a basic study to evaluate ten years of Fukushima revitalization policies. It examines the Fukushima revitalization policy implementation process by municipalities and points out that return-first policies have been suited for the nature of municipalities. Chapter 3 discusses the lift of evacuation orders and revitalization of the Difficult-to-return Zone. It overviews the Zone and the Special Zones for Reconstruction and Revitalization, analyzes recognition of municipalities concerning the lift of evacuation orders and revitalization of the Difficult-to-return Zone, and points out problems and issues. Chapter 4 examines the actual situation of affected areas and returnees after evacuation orders were lifted, focusing on the town center of Namie Town. It analyzes the actual situation of residents and the status of restoration and regeneration of the living environment and concludes that the living environment has not been restored to the extent that most disaster victims are able to choose returning and that returnees are still disaster victims in that they are living in the environment with hardship. Using findings from Chapters 2 to 4, Chapter 5 suggests four research questions designed to help clarify long-term revitalization issues in Fukushima: (1) What caused the Fukushima nuclear accident and who is responsible? (2) What is the actual state of the damage caused by the accident? (3) What are the real issues facing the disaster victims and the affected areas? and (4) What can be done to prevent the recurrence of a nuclear accident or to minimize damage if one occurs?