



## Background and Aim of SAMRAI 2014

Print and televised media reports on radioactive materials released into the environment due to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (F1 NPP) accident have caused confusion the radiation, an extremely ill advised forced evacuation victimized many people who required special medical care.

Even in the areas within the 20 km zone that were subjected to the forced evacuation order, the dose rate immediately after the accident was shown to be rather low. Namely, the dose rate was initially comparable to levels that astronauts in the International Space Station were exposed to, and subsequently decreased by a factor of 30 after one month and by a factor of 100 after one year. At present, three years after the incident, the annual dose in the 20 km zone has significantly decreased to natural background levels in some areas, and to rates only a few times greater than that of natural background levels in other areas.

A major factor contributing to the panic in Fukushima, which resulted from unfounded fears of radiation and radioactivity, was the former government's decision to exclude expert scientists from participating in dose surveys and to treat the 20 km zone as a "black box." Additionally, the belief that radiation doses should be as close to zero as possible has become prevalent throughout the world. However, such linear-no-threshold (LNT) models for radiation risk in low dose ranges have already been disproven by recent studies. Furthermore, the latest medical science research on radiation has revealed the hormesis effect on enhanced immune capacity.

In the midst of the confusing situation that resulted from the all too often conflicting reports and information about the Fukushima radiation event, the Society for Radiation Information (SRI) and the Scientists for Accurate Radiation Information (SARI) were established in Japan and abroad, respectively, in 2013. Through the efforts of these groups, the plans for the present conference were realized. In addition, the Legislator's Committee for the Study of the Effects of Radiation was established in 2013 to utilize scientifically correct understanding of radiation issues. The Committee will be co-hosting the present conference.

The SAMRAI 2014 is the first event sponsored by the Scientists' Advisory Meeting for Radiation Accurate Information. Its focus will be toward establishing a scientific understanding of low dose rates of radiation in Fukushima and discussing the issue of rehabilitation in the 20 km zone. Five leading scientists will report on the latest dose survey results in Fukushima, the science of low dose radiation, the health enhancement effects of radiation, the issues of Japanese radiological protection standards, and the improvements in social issues that will lead to a correct understanding of nuclear energy. We will discuss how to accelerate the rehabilitation in the 20 km zone of Fukushima by presenting the reality of a maintaining a ranch within the zone.

I sincerely hope that the information pertaining to radiation presented at this conference will contribute to the realization of a policy aiming for a prompt rehabilitation in Fukushima Prefecture and lead to a greater understanding of nuclear radiation science in the international society.

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