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Japanese Baptist Convention *Great East Japan Earthquake Support Team*: <http://www.bapren.jp/>

Tarachine Child Clinic

Six years have passed since the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident in March 2011. In the afflicted areas, there are mothers who are still living in anxiety about the effect radiation exposure has on health. Anxiety about the environmental pollution that cannot be seen, smelt, felt. And this anxiety and worry is experienced differently by each person. In Chernobyl, thyroid cancer in children began to increase rapidly five years after the nuclear power plant accident. In addition, it was seven years after the nuclear accident that the number of children diagnosed as "chronically ill" surpassed the number of "healthy" children. There is a time lag until the influence of radiation exposure appears in the body. Chernobyl is the Fukushima in 30 years. And even 30years on, invisible anxiety is prevalent.

Tachibana clinic was opened May of this year by Fujita director in hopes to:

- Listen to the worries of both child and mother so that they can return home with a smile.
- Become a clinic that helps the mothers by facing the stress they carry together.

"Is it OK to ask the doctor this?" "Is it OK to talk about what i've been worrying about?" It is our goal to be a local clinic that walks beside people who have worries and doubts such as these. It is our hope at Tarachine Clinic that the children in the disaster areas who were exposed to radiation can face tomorrow in good health and with a smile.

The clinic is internal medicine clinic and a pediatrics. We also accept patients with general illnesses and give out vaccinations. But we are always question ourselves if there is not more we can do for the children. This is what lead us to start the "Tarachine Children's Total Health Check Up". This check up works to answer many of the worries and anxieties, and is meant to prevent future health issues.

As a manager I myself will go to the clinic, directly listen to the patient's worries, listen to what they want to say, and aim to create a clinic where the patience feel happy to have come to the clinic. We pray that many children in Fukushima Prefecture and neighbouring contaminated areas will use this clinic. We eagerly wait for your visiting us.

Content of Tarachine Children's Total Health Check Up

- Examination (interview by doctor)
- Physical check up (height, weight, sight, hearing, blood pressure)
- Radio activity measurement in the body
 - Body radioactivity measurement using the Whole Body Counter
 - Urinary caesium measurement (Germanium semiconductor measurement by the NPO Shinjuku Yoyogi Citizens Measurement Station)
- Blood Test
 - General blood test (liver, kidney, anaemia, inflammatory response)
 - Thyroid hormone test
- Urine test
- Thyroid examination by ultrasound (Echo)
- Mental Health Care (consultation for health troubles and issues concerning daily life)

On 3 July this year, three churches (total 51 people) in Fukushima carried out an excursion to Tarachine Clinic to have thyroid checkups. We hope to continue watching over the health of the children's and families through cooperation with Tarachine Clinic.



Left photo: Front desk

Middle photo: Dolls and toys in the waiting room

Right photo: Dr. Fujita during a consultation

Fukushima Now ~ Report (3) from 30KM radius of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant~ “Flexible Containers”

Have you heard about the “Furekon” or “Flexible containers”? This is a word that any Fukushima resident will know. It is also something that is a discomfort for residents in their daily life. There “Flexible container bags” are bags where dirt and rubble that have been contaminated by radiation are collected. Until a few years ago, the news would often report about how these bags were piled up in huge mounds. I’m sure many people will remember this when shown photos of this.

These flexible containers are placed all around Fukushima Prefecture. Originally they were placed in temporary storage places, out of the way from homes and people. However, as these places became filled up, and storage places ran out, many are stored in the corner of school yards and gardens of homes. The amount of flexible containers stored in school yards covers a staggering “300,000m³, enough to cover a fourth of Tokyo Dome.

flexible containers will eventually be stored for 30 years in an interim storage facility built in Futaba Town, Okuma Town where TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. It takes time to acquire the land and the construction is delayed, but from April the flexible containers have started being moved to the new construction site. The flexible containers were stored in various places throughout the prefecture. As a result, dump trucks carrying contaminated soil filled flexible containers are traveling back and forth within the prefecture. An average of 350 trucks travel between each place and Okuma Town and Futaba Town. This topic came up when I was visiting Tamura City to carry out interviews. Tamura City was an area where evacuation orders had been issued. The national highway goes through Tamura City. This highway stretches from East to West, connecting the central areas such as Koriyama to the coastal areas where evacuation orders have been issued. The interviewee said, “The national highway near my house is full of dump trucks all morning, and its troubling.” When on the No. 6 national road near Okuma Town, there are many trucks with the sticker “Transporting waste soil”. It is estimated that last year there was 160,000m³ of soil transported. 500,000m³ is planned for this fiscal year, and 12.5 million m³ of soil is to be transported in the next 5 years. In other words, more and more dump trucks will travel around the prefecture. While it is a good thing that the flexible containers are being carried away, the reality of the citizens living in Fukushima is that they have to see these trucks carrying the flexible containers on their way to work, and on their way to school.



Top photo: Flexible containers at the temporary storage place. the containers hold up to a ton of material.
Bottom photo: Trucks carrying the flexible containers toward Okuma-cho. On national highway 6.

2017 Earthquake Disaster Fundraising Report

Target: 6 Million Japanese Yen.

Accumulated total as of July: 6Mill 42Thousand Japanese Yen. Thank you.

Donations during June and July in order of donations

Megumi, Kagoshima, Hitachi, Chofu, Seishyonen Dendoshitsu, Kubo Yuko, Nishino Guitar and Piano Class, Higashi Osaka, Omiya, Chofu, Tanaka Akinori, Fukuma.