

ISAP SESSION SUMMARY 6

**PL-3: Disseminating Information on Reconstruction Activities in Fukushima:
From the Viewpoint of Local Resilience**

Tuesday, 23 July 2013, 14:45

The Fukushima Global Communication Programme (FGC) is a major new initiative developed by the UNU Institute for Sustainability and Peace (UNU-ISP). By adopting the approach of human security, the FGC Programme will focus specifically on analysing the impacts and consequences of the nuclear accident in Fukushima as well as the earthquake and tsunami of March 2011. Through intensive research and data collection, the FGC Programme aims to become an important platform for consolidating and disseminating information on what has become the second worst nuclear accident in human history. The objective of the panel was to discuss current activities and the future direction of the programme, and featured a keynote speech as well as presentations by three panelists.

Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, UNU, introduced the Fukushima Global Communication Programme (FGC), which will seek among other things to establish an environmental framework for understanding the triple-disaster of March 2011 (earthquake, tsunami, nuclear accident), with particular emphasis on human security. The FGC programme will focus primarily on three main areas: (1) promoting research based on a human security approach; (2) fostering collaboration with international and domestic institutes; (3) accurately disseminating information from Japan to other countries. To address existing miscommunication and to foster research and collaboration, the programme will convene lectures and international conferences including Japanese and international experts.

Dr. Madoka Futamura, UNU, explained the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into understanding human security, specifically in relation to sustainable development and the impact of natural disasters. After introducing the seven areas of human security identified by UNDP, Dr. Futamura highlighted how each area connects to a woman's experience and needs during disasters.

Dr. Atsuro Tsutsumi, UNU, provided insight into how mental health is impacted by disasters, and its importance for establishing sustainable and resilient communities. Among other things, he emphasised the psychological effects triggered by disasters, and introduced statistics from past disasters in Japan, including the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Prof. Satoru Tanaka, University of Tokyo, spoke about many of the infrastructural challenges facing people in the area affected by the nuclear disaster in northeastern Japan. While recognising the diverse challenges, Prof. Tanaka emphasised the positive role that the government can play in incentivising development and helping people to return home.

Key messages of the session

Effective communication, a human security approach and enhanced collaboration with academic institutions and organisations are all crucial for reconstruction activities and enhancing resilience in Fukushima. UNU is well-positioned to act as a catalyst and facilitator in this process. Furthermore, the knowledge and lessons generated by this research will be useful not only in the Fukushima context, but can also contribute to enhancing resilience in communities around the world.

