

A message from the governor (January 4, 2012)

To all the residents of Fukushima Prefecture

I would like to extend my sincere wishes to all the residents for a Happy New Year!

It is exactly 300 days today since the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred.

The unprecedented great earthquake and the accident at the nuclear power plant instantly destroyed our peaceful lives.

I would like to express my sincerest condolences to all the victims in the prefecture.

I feel very depressed when I think of the many residents who were forced to evacuate their hometowns and spent the New Year's Holidays feeling anxious about the threat of radiation.

In addition to the March disaster, the prefecture was hit by heavy rains and a devastating typhoon.

Consequently, the prefecture is in the midst of the unprecedented harshest condition in the prefectural political history.

We have a pile of issues to be solved ahead of us for revitalization, such as managing the health of residents, compensation for damage, returning of evacuees to their hometowns, measures against reputational damage, and measures for decommissioning of the nuclear reactor.

In that regard, I am fully resolved to recreate a vibrant and bright Fukushima where residents can live without fear.

At the end of the last year, we formulated the "Fukushima Revitalization Plan" which is a compass for the revitalization of the prefecture.

I feel very reassured with this plan because it is full of compassions expressed by our residents who love Fukushima and hope the recovery of their hometowns holding opinions that continued release of our recovery efforts because the revitalization of the prefecture will be the foundation of the revitalization.

This is the New Year of revitalization for the prefecture.

In order to accomplish our goal, I am fully determined to recreate a new Fukushima that is filled with many smiles of children, we will do this through efforts to assure a safe and secure life, restore and develop social infrastructures, promote industries, maintain and create employment for the restoration of beautiful and affluent land, all in cooperation with residents.

This is particularly relevant for Futaba County and its surrounding areas which were the worst affected, I will be committed to restoration and revitalization through implementation of major projects based on the plan for

revitalization and its further reflection, application of ‘Special District System for Revitalization’ and application of (provisional) ‘Act of Special Measures for Revitalization and Recovery of Fukushima’.

Needless to say, resolution of the accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station is the presupposition of the revitalization of the prefecture.

On December 16, Prime Minister Noda announced the completion of ‘Step 2’ in the work schedule for the resolution of the accident, and following his statement, the Japanese Government declared they would review the caution zones and form three new zones by the end of March.

Completion of the ‘Step 2’ is indeed the first step for residents who have been forced to evacuate their homes for a long period of time. I believe that the road toward the resolution of the accident will be long and hard, and the recent policy to review the caution zones will certainly be an enormously difficult issue to deal with for the victims.

Therefore, the prefectural government will establish a group for the support of nuclear disaster-affected municipalities within the disaster prevention headquarters, in order to tailor a response to the needs of each municipality and resident.

In terms of evacuees outside the prefecture, we will provide consultation support for daily life, information and networking within the evacuees at the bases for life support; which were established by the cooperation of municipalities for evacuation and private bodies.

Also, I will make efforts for the recovery of regional communities through exchange of evacuees and consultation service at the ‘Stand Strong, Fukushima! Gigantic Exchange Fair’ in Tokyo, March, traveling consultation services to be held around Japan, and exchanging opportunities coordinated with many municipal events.

Next, I would like to briefly discuss the main policies that were based on the plan for revitalization.

First, I will firmly address the efforts for the environmental recovery of the prefecture by thorough decontamination and ensure the long-term safeguarding of residents’ health.

In terms of the progress of decontamination, I will quickly implement it in line with municipalities, aiming to foster contractors, formulate a plan for decontamination and gain on understanding of the residents for securement of the temporary radwaste storage site. I will also firmly respond to the issue of the interim radwaste storage facility through mutual consultation with relevant municipalities.

For the health control survey to protect the residents’ health, I will enrich its content and swiftly proceed, such as initiation of health examination and mental health survey for children in the evacuation instruction zone from

January.

I will address the recovery of the regional healthcare based on the establishment of a financing system for private medical institutions which are in difficulty with management due to the evacuation followed by the nuclear accident.

In respect of environmental development for facilitating of child-raising, I strongly demanded the bill for the free medical system for children of 18 years or younger to the Japanese Government for the creation of the prefecture where residents are the best assured with childbirth and childcare in Japan, but unfortunately the bill was not adopted in the next fiscal year's governmental budget. Yet, I will make the utmost efforts for the realization of the system for the children who will play a major role in the future Fukushima.

In order to ensure food safety including school lunch, I will strengthen the inspection system by increasing the number of testing apparatuses provided to municipalities and schools.

I will further promote the recovery of existing industries, such as agriculture, fishery and forestry industries as well as commerce & industry, we will support the construction and creation of companies that will contribute to our strong revitalization, development of industrial bases and clusters. Specifically, I will formulate a basic concept for the development of the three bases including 'Research for environmental recovery', 'Cutting-edge medical treatment for the radiation medical care', and 'Research and development of drugs', as well as a basic concept to form industrial cluster of the reusable energy industry and the medical care industry.

In addition, I will be dedicated to the preservation and creation of employment as well as strengthening of infrastructure that will help with revitalization of the prefecture in the services of road, railway, port & harbors, airport and information communications through the promotion of the above policies.

Regarding the agriculture, forestry and fishery industries, which are the leading industries in the prefecture, I will proceed further with decontamination of the farms and forestry, thorough the implementation of monitoring and development of technology for the reduction of radioactive substances.

I will complete the ongoing emergency research and verification of rice as early as possible, and secure the safety for consumers, at the same time I will exert myself for safety measures including decontamination while carefully listening to opinions of municipalities and relevant associations so that rice producers are willing to plant rice in 2012.

In order to restore all the industries of the prefecture and overcome the nuclear disaster, I think it important to eradicate harmful rumors and let people without prejudice evaluate high-quality products and excellent environment of the prefecture.

Accordingly, in conjunction with a memorial ceremony for the victims to be held 1 year after the disaster, I will

hold an event in which residents will pledge to eliminate groundless reputations and revitalize the prefecture together. Moreover, I will positively release messages of appreciation to many international and domestic supporters, and actual status of the prefecture towards revitalization to eliminate the reputational damage and prevent the weathering of the accident for dynamic revitalization of tourism and sales turnover of prefectural products.

As for (provisional)' Act of Special Measures for Revitalization and Recovery of Fukushima' which will be a key factor for recovery and revitalization; I have continued to insist the need for it to be enacted since initiation of the national conference of vision for revitalization. Consequently, the task is underway for submission of the bill to the ordinary diet session.

With respect to the nuclear accident that extremely affected all the fields of the prefecture, I will proceed with consultation with the national government so that they may take responsibility for revitalization of the prefecture and expressly state special measures that will largely overtake the current frame..

In regards to compensation for the losses caused by the nuclear accident, at the end of the last year, I started to lobby the national government to indemnify all the losses incurred in all areas and all the residents. I will work with relevant associations and municipalities and try to understand the victims' point of view as we work towards achieving full compensation.

In this message, I have declared a part of my policy for the New Year's prefectural governance.

Lastly, I heartily pray for a happy new year that all the residents will restore a light of hope and step towards a bright future, as well as hoping for your further support and cooperation for the prefectural policy to end my new year's message.