

## Local Liaison Councils Meet in Nagasaki and Hiroshima

Meetings of the Local Liaison Council (LLC), composed of local advisors, took place in Nagasaki on September 9, 2015, and two days later in Hiroshima on September 11, 2015. The Nagasaki LLC held its 24th meeting, and the Hiroshima LLC marked its 21st meeting.

The Nagasaki LLC meeting, attended by 12 of the 20 Council members, was opened by the Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF)'s Chief of Secretariat Eiji Akimoto, who introduced the new Council members. After greetings from RERF Chairman Ohtsura Niwa, the proceedings got underway, with Nagasaki LLC Chairman Shigeru Katamine (President of Nagasaki University) presiding over the meeting.

Dr. Niwa first reported on the current status of RERF, followed by Vice Chairman and Executive Director Robert L. Ullrich, who spoke about recent progress in research. Acting Chief of the Department of Nagasaki Clinical Studies Ayumi Hida then reported on the Clinical Study of the F<sub>1</sub> Offspring of A-bomb Survivors. Vice Director of the Nagasaki Biosample Center Kunio Yamaguchi described advances at the Biosample Center, followed by a report from the Department Chief of Radiobiology/Molecular Epidemiology Yoichiro Kusunoki on progress in the collaborative study with the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Chief Scientist Kazunori Kodama then spoke about the epidemiological study of health effects in Fukushima emergency workers, followed by a report from Executive Director Takanobu Teramoto, who explained RERF's public relations activities.

At the Hiroshima LLC meeting, 13 of the 15

members attended, including three proxies. The meeting was chaired by Hiroshima LLC Chairman Mitsuo Ochi (President of Hiroshima University). As at the Nagasaki meeting, reports were presented by Dr. Niwa on RERF's present status; Dr. Ullrich on recent research; Chief of the Department of Hiroshima Clinical Studies Waka Ohishi on the Clinical Study of the F<sub>1</sub> Offspring of A-bomb Survivors; and Director of the Biosample Center Yoshiaki Kodama on progress at the Biosample Center.

The account of the Clinical Study of the F<sub>1</sub> Offspring of A-bomb Survivors indicated that during the second four-year cycle, about 10,000 participants underwent health examinations, nearly meeting the 80% target for participation. The report also explained that collected examination data will be aggregated to analyze and evaluate the prevalence and occurrence of diseases among children of A-bomb survivors.

Views were actively exchanged about RERF's data and study results at both meetings, and we were able to hear valuable opinions from the local communities. At the Hiroshima LLC meeting, a participant suggested establishing a system to allow RERF to centrally archive biosamples of A-bomb survivors that are currently stored by medical institutions in Hiroshima City. There was also a request for early relocation of Hiroshima RERF.

The objective of these Councils is to compile ideas from local communities and see them reflected in RERF's operations. We take the opinions and requests presented during these meetings seriously, review them fully, and utilize them in planning RERF's future operations.



Local Liaison Council meeting held at Nagasaki RERF



Local Liaison Council meeting held at Hiroshima RERF