

RERF Public Lecture Held at Japanese Radiation Research Society Meeting



Opening scene of Public Lecture

The RERF Public Lecture in 2016 was presented as part of the 59th Meeting of the Japanese Radiation Research Society, with the Society acting as co-sponsor. The lecture was held in the evening of October 26 at the JMS Aster Plaza in Naka-ku, Hiroshima. About 120 persons attended, including Society participants and members of the public.

Because 2016 marked the fifth anniversary of TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, the Public Lecture featured four presentations based on the theme "Message to Fukushima

from Hiroshima and Nagasaki five years after the accident—harmony between health monitoring and scientific research." Dr. Toshiya Inaba, Professor, Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine of Hiroshima University, and Ms. Reiko Horimukai, Assistant Chief, Public Relations and Publications Office, RERF, served as co-presenters.

In his opening lecture, Mr. Sunao Tsuboi, Chairman, Hiroshima Prefecture Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations, spoke passionately about his own experiences immediately after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. He



Dr. Inaba (upper left), acted as presenter at lecture, and three speakers: Dr. Kodama, Chief Scientist (upper right), Dr. Kai (lower left), Dr. Midorikawa (lower right)



Mr. Sunao Tsuboi speaking about his A-bombing experience

described how he roamed around the ruined city after being exposed to the bombing 1.5 kilometers from the hypocenter, how he prepared for death in the vicinity of Miyuki-bashi Bridge, and how he shouted out a warning to a young girl not to go in the direction of the blaze.

Every attendee in the hall was surely moved by Mr. Tsuboi's strong desire to communicate to as many people as possible about the true nature of the atomic bombings and the need to eliminate nuclear weapons for global peace.

Dr. Kazunori Kodama, RERF Chief Scientist, explained that RERF has been thinking about how to go about conveying its research findings to people in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and throughout the world. He emphasized that RERF is making every effort to carry out such activities, including releasing information on its website, holding Local Liaison Council meetings, and hosting events such as the Open House and Public Lecture.

Dr. Michiaki Kai, Professor, Oita University of Nursing and Health Sciences, used figures and charts to present a readily understandable explanation of radiation protection systems and talked about how radiation protection standards are based on the outcomes of health effects studies conducted by RERF in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Public Lecture leaflet

Dr. Sanae Midorikawa, Professor, Fukushima Medical University, spoke about a major thyroid screening project conducted after the Fukushima accident for mothers who feared the onset of thyroid cancer among their children, noting that the outcome ironically multiplied the mothers' fears.

The last lecture reminded the audience of the importance of communication that is sensitive to the difficulties inherent in striking a balance between scientific research and health protection, thus avoiding misunderstandings between examiners and examinees.