

EarthSummit2012 Japan

On March 11, 2011, M9.0 earthquake hit the eastern part of Japan. Nearly 20 thousand people died or are still missing. Cities and towns were totally destroyed by 40 meter Tsunami, or even disappeared as if nothing had been there.

But we were not devastated only by a natural disaster but also by what we had created for ourselves. Four nuclear reactors in Fukushima, which had long been supplying large amount of electricity to the Tokyo economic area, had brought about serious meltdown and hydrogen explosion. They have emitted more than 77 tera Bq of radioactive particles into the air, soil, and ocean, which will undermine our children and grand children physically and mentally for decades.

Through the ruin of our towns and contaminated rubbles we see the end of a paradigm that Japan, and the global economy, had long been standing upon. We built a society on a thin ice of extremely complex social system, sacrificing profound relationship with Mother Earth and sacrificing our own culture and spirits. As a result, in our “wealthy society” more than 30 thousand people kill themselves every year since 1990s.

A recovery we started is entirely different from the one we experienced after the World War. We have to rebuild ourselves as a true sustainable society and show alternative solutions. We believe it is a responsibility of the world largest economies that had long been exploiting the earth and the people, and as a responsibility of the only country that experienced two atomic bombs and the worst nuclear accident in the human history.

EarthSummit2012 Japan is a non-profit multi-stakeholder organization that provides policy proposals, civil actions, and inclusive platforms for the process leading up to Rio+20 in Japan. We are, on behalf of the Japanese citizens, willing to involve ourselves strongly in the process for Rio+20 and to make valuable contributions to its ambitious project of creating a new paradigm. We hope what we learn and start from our “ground zero” will contribute to the long journey of human kind toward a sustainable future where 9 billion people live together in peace and harmony.