

Young Researchers' Association

9:40 am start(Session 3), 16 May 2017, at Lisbon Portugal,

17th European ALARA Network workshop on "ALARA in emergency exposure situations"

# Experience of Activities in Q&A about Radiation in Daily Life after Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident

Takahiko Kono<sup>1), 2)</sup>, Akihiro Sakoda<sup>1), 2)</sup>

Young Researchers' Association, Japan Health Physics Society
Japan Atomic Energy Agency

### Outline of presentation

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Activities using Question and Answer Website about radiation in Daily Life
- 3. Analysis of the questions and the questioners
- 4. Summary

### 1. Introduction

#### Young Researchers' Association in JHPS(1)

- Young Researchers' Association (YRA) in Japan Health Physic Society (JHPS) since 1987 with 7 voluntary members
- ► About 40 engineers and researchers (as of April 2017) younger than 36 years old from private companies, research institutions or academia
- ► We specialize in <u>radiation protection</u>, <u>environmental radioactivity</u>, etc



YRA homepage

YRA Facebook page Please like us!!

#### Young Researchers' Association in JHPS(2)

- Our main purpose of activities
- 1) To exchange information and discuss latest knowledge about radiation protection among the members via periodical workshops and mailing list.
- 2) To engage in educational activities on radiation protection to the public
- 3) To cultivate domestic and international relationships with young









# 2. Activities using Question and Answer Website about radiation in Daily Life

#### **Background**

The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident happened. (11 March 2011)

Artificial radionuclides to the environment This fact made people upset and anxious.

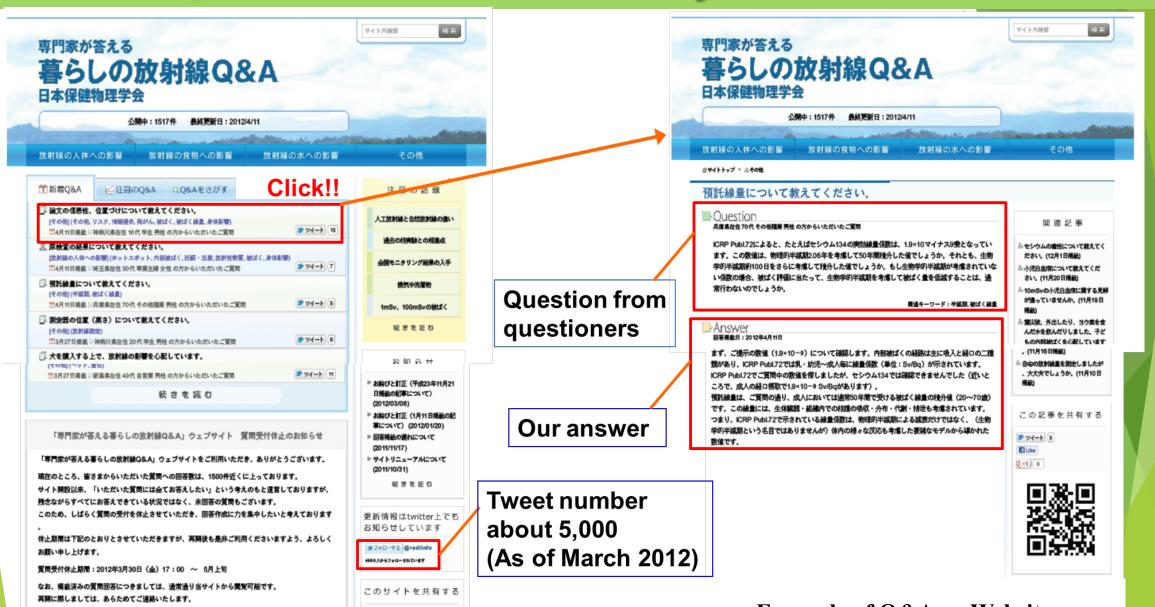
Volunteers of JHPS built up a website named Questions and Answers about Radiation in Daily Life. (from 25 March 2011)

For providing accurate information about radiation and radioactivity via website to the public

Steering Committee of this Q&A site was officially established in JHPS. (24 August 2011)

We describe an outline of the contents of questions sent to our Q&A website and experience of activities for about two years after the Fukushima accident.

#### **Q&A** website in daily life of JHPS



The Top page on Q&A Website ( <a href="http://radi-info.com/">http://radi-info.com/</a>) (in Japanese)

**Example of Q&A on Website** 

#### Steering Committee of Q&A site in JHPS(1)

Japan Health Physics Society

**Executive Committee** 

Editorial Board

Strategic Planning

Committee

П oreign **Affairs** Committe

Japan Protection Standardization Radiation

Activity period: From August 2011 to March 2013

Established in JHPS in 24 August 2011

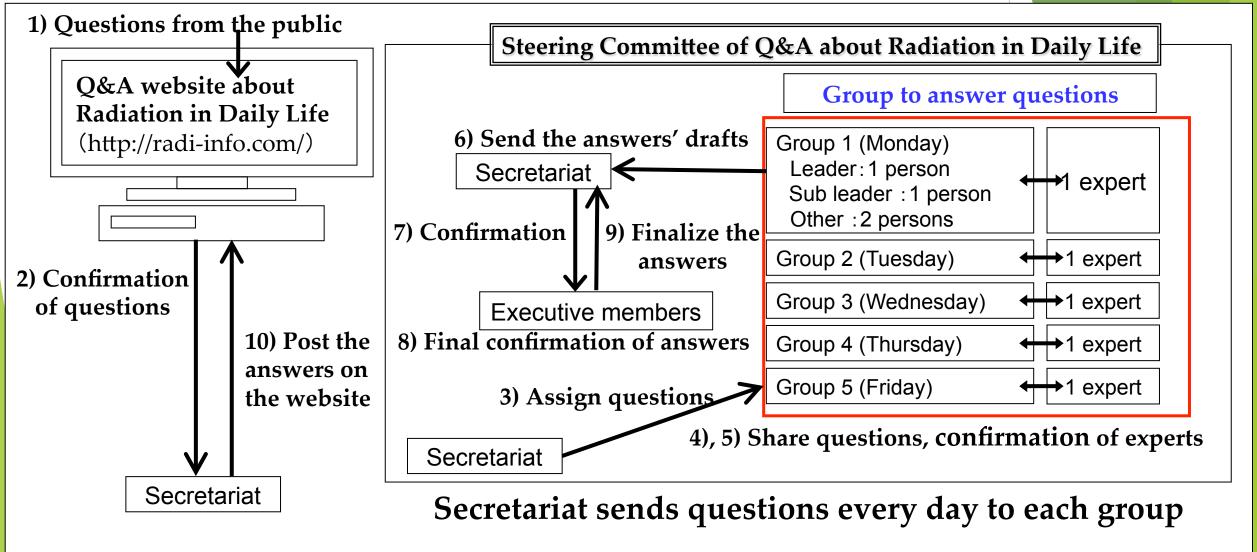
The committee Members (53 persons)

Breakdown:

- 5 Executive members
- 7 Senior Expert members
- 24 Young Researchers Association members
- 17 Student's Association members

#### Steering Committee of Q&A site in JHPS(2)

#### The correspondence process of answering



#### Steering Committee of Q&A site in JHPS(3)

#### Basic stance of our committee for answering

- 1) To answer politely all questions from questioners
  - Do not ignore similar questions
- 2) To say objective fact
  - •We calculate dose using reliable information and compare with scientific data.
  - (Natural background and Epidemiological study)
- 3) To say our idea indirectly
- 4) To commit final judgment to questioners

#### The publication of a book about Q&A website



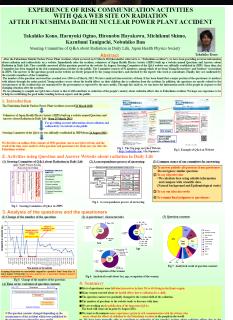
• JHPS published a book(in Japanese) on July 2013 for sharing the correct information on radiation and our activities for the two years.

#### This book mainly presents:

- The essence of all Q&A
- The result of the time series analysis of the questions and questioners
- The basic knowledge on general radiation protection

#### The Presentation to IRPA-13 at Glasgow





• We presented our activity experiences after Fukushima Accident as a poster presentation in IRPA-13(May 2013) at Glasgow, Scotland.

-You can see our presentation on IRPA website as follows:

Poster presentation

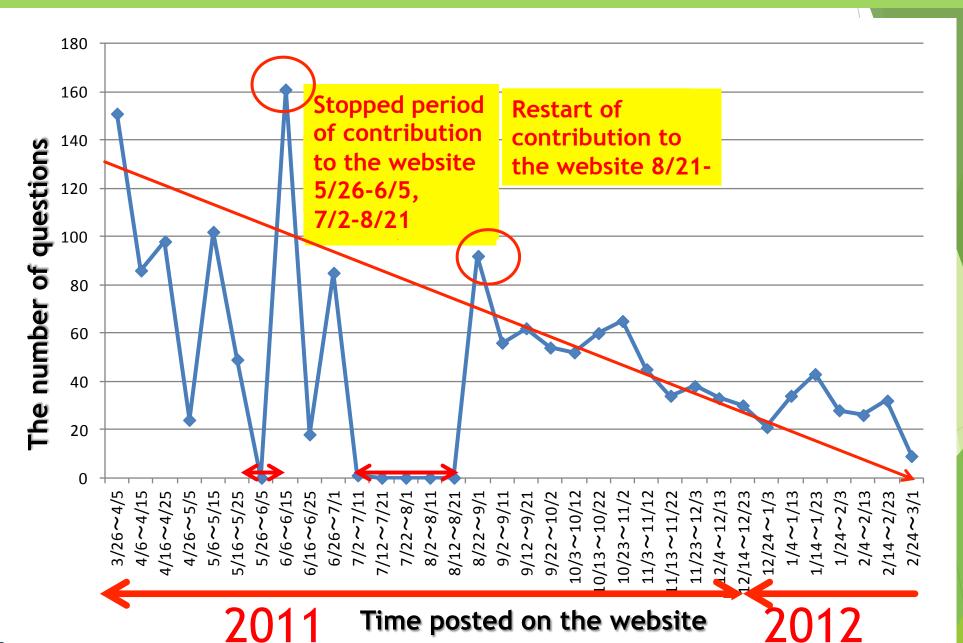
http://www.irpa.net/members/P12.64.pdf

**Proceedings** 

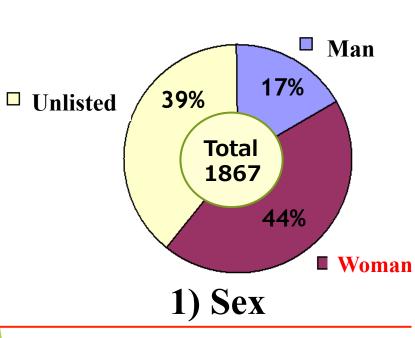
http://www.irpa.net/members/P12.64fp.pdf

# 3. Analysis of the questions and the questioners

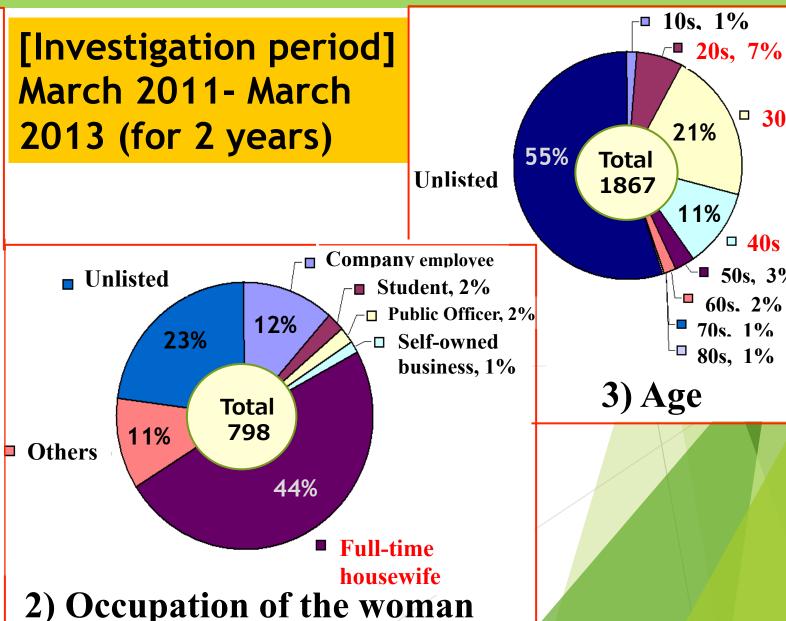
#### (1) Change of the number of the questions



#### (2) A questioners' characteristics



These data were based on selfreported results from questioners



.□ 30s

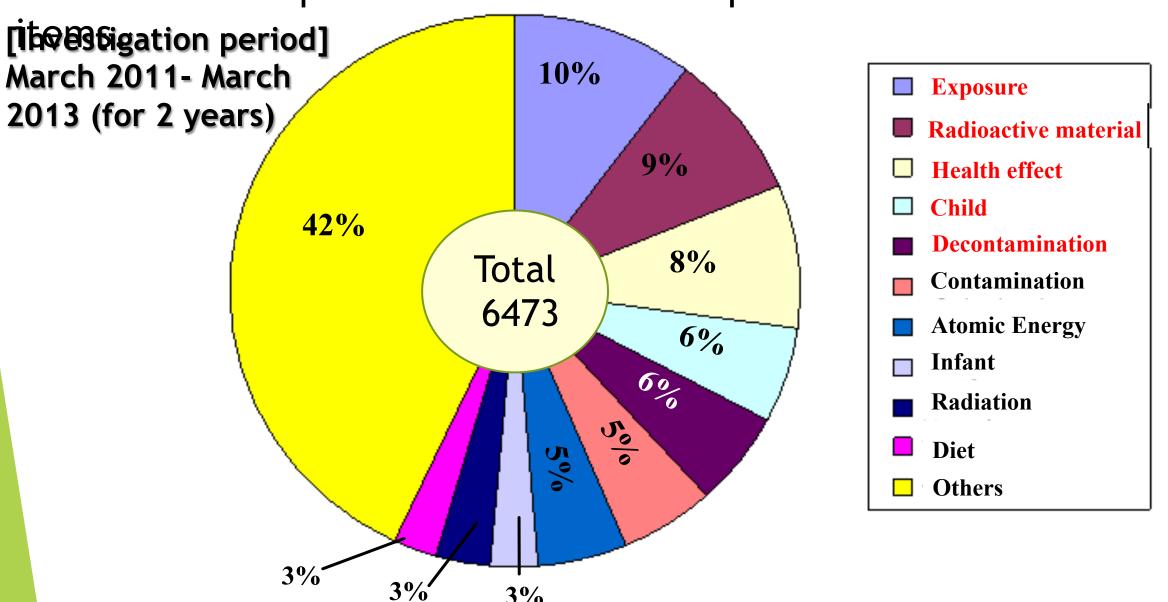
**40s** 

■ 50s, 3%

70s. 1%

#### (3) Question contents

- We classified question contents from questioners based on 11



#### (4) Main issues on the activities

- We couldn't confirm directly whether questioners were able to understand our answers because of answering questions via Internet.
- ⇒Namely it was Not face to face.

- ► But we think it was good we answered questions rapidly and carefully right after the accident.
- ⇒It was very important as responses to the public in the early stage after the accident.

# 4. Summary

#### Summary

- ► Most of questioners were full-time housewives in their 20s to 40s.
- ⇒Many women worried about the health effects of radiation on their children.
- ► These question contents were gradually changed depending on the circumstances of the accident over time.
- ► The number of questions to the website tended to decrease with time.
- ▶ We published a book about Q&As on July 2013.
- We believe our activities have been generally able to contribute to reduction of the people's anxiety about radiation effects due to the Fukushima accident by O&A website. It was confirmed by comments

## Thank you for your attention!!

My email address: kono.takahiko@jaea.go.jp

I hope to keep in touch with you in the future!

Appearance of main activities in YRA of JHPS







