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Climate Policy Strategies and Energy Transition

# From irrationality to chaos, and to where ?

Nuclear (Waste) Governance collapse after Fukushima

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Tetsu IIDA

Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies  
(ISEP)



TEPCO?

New standards?

Nuke Restart?

SF storage?

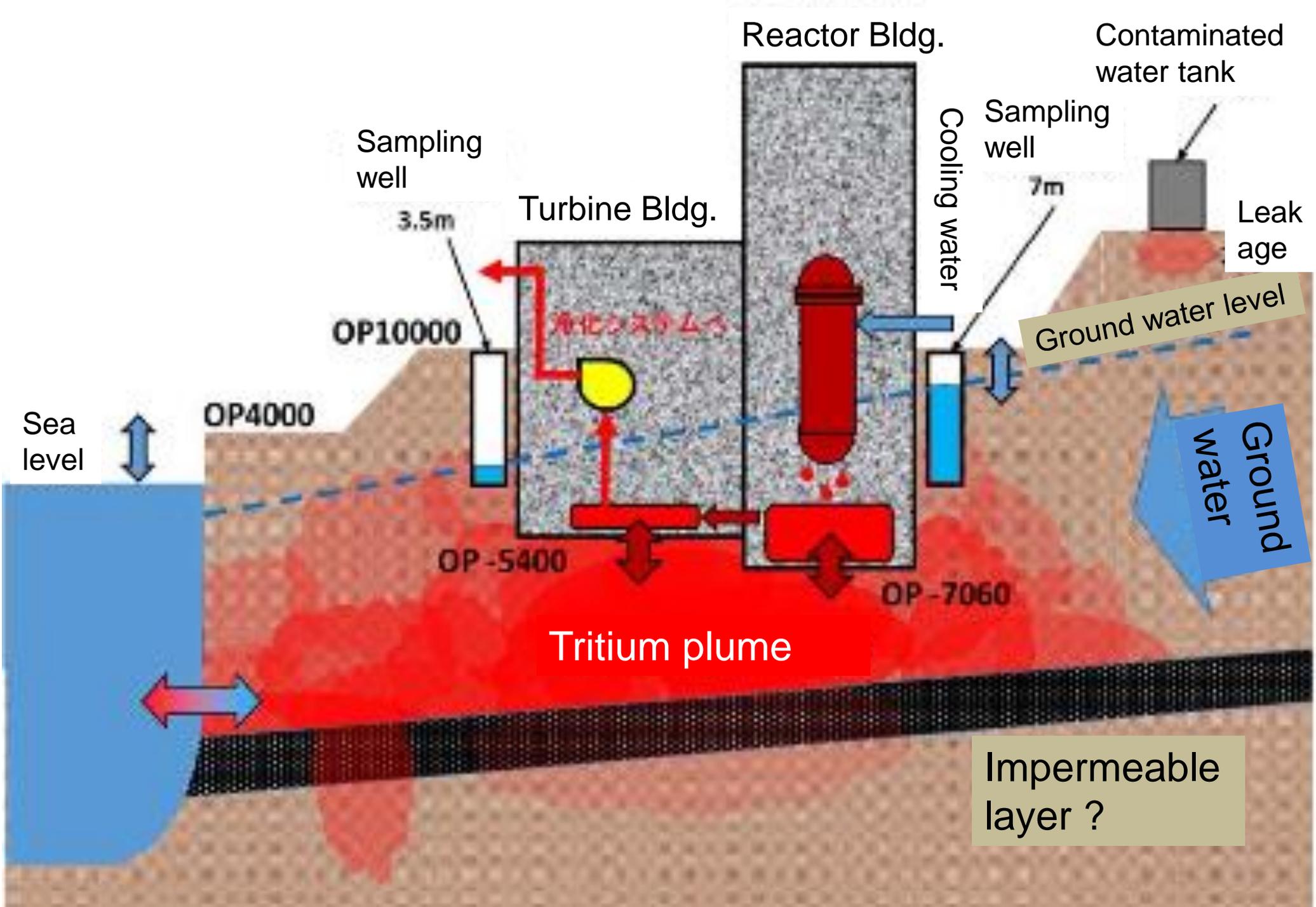
Fukushima settlement?

NFC policy?

EI market?

# New crisis after 3.11





# New crisis after 3.11

## 1. Getting worse and worse

- ✓ “Open-loop” cooling water, with 400 ton/day fresh water IN and 800 ton/day contaminated water RECOVER.
- ✓ “Contaminated ground water plume” has been overflowing into the sea
- ✓ Continuous increasing “contaminated water tank-farm”, that no one have idea to treat, creates new risks.

## 2. Reactive and temporary response

- ✓ TEPCO : lack of resources and will
- ✓ NRA : lack of sense of ownership
- ✓ METI : as if someone’s else business

## 3. Structural failure

- ✓ TEPCO as a “Zombie”, de-facto bankruptcy, but imposed obligation
  - to recover Fukushima accident, and
  - to compensate people from Fukushima damage, at the same time,
  - to make a profit as still “listed company”
- ✓ METI keep TEPCO alive in order to avoid direct ownership and responsibility

# Wrong from the beginning of 3.11

1. The decision TEPCO keep alive
  - ✓ METI, MoFA and Mega-bank decided under their win-win interest
  - ✓ Mr.Kan Cabinet and DPJ naively adopted their plan in April 2011
2. The Gov. drew the line of responsibility
  - ✓ “Fukushima must be recovered by TEPCO’s own responsibility”
  - ✓ The government stay to be backup or supplemental role
3. No one took responsibility for 3.11, so about to repeat same mistake by same person(s).
  - ✓ TEPCO
  - ✓ METI
  - ✓ AEC-J, NSC-J
  - ✓ DPJ, LDP

# Political upheaval

## 1. Upheaval on the political scene

- ✓ From DJP to LDP admin in spite of its nuclear promotion promise
- ✓ Majority of the people still favor nuclear phase-out (approx.70%)
- ✓ Due to combination of deep disappointment against DPJ, no or few alternative political parties, election system magic, etc.

## 2. Revival of pre 3.11 nuclear village

- ✓ So-called “Abe-METI Cabinet”, those who are one of “3.11 criminal” are now controlling nuclear policy in the background.
- ✓ Rational, progressive experts were kicked out from the Government committees and less chance to talk on the mass media
- ✓ Instead, noisy, irrational arguments from nuclear promoters more and more coming up with media, those who were quiet since 3.11

## 3. Strange “atmosphere”

- ✓ “Abe-METI Cabinet” and the government keep avoiding to argue about nuclear issue, even neglect or try to be “off the agenda”
- ✓ Mass media become tend to be “conservative” about nuclear issue : “keep Abe Admin. popular in order to keep stock market high”

# Brief history

## 1. Beginning

- ✓ 1954: Sudden nuclear budget by Mr. Nakasone
- ✓ 1956: Nuclear fuel cycle under the 1<sup>st</sup> National Nuclear Plan
- ✓ 1963: First Power reactor JPDR
- ✓ 1970: First commercial reactor (Tsuruga, Mihama) 1971:*Fukushima #1*
- ✓ 1977: Reprocessing contract with France/UK (5600+1500MTU)
- ✓ 1990: Low level waste at Rokkasho
- ✓ 1993: Rokkasho Reprocessing plant start to construct (not finished)

## 2. Tuning points

- ✓ 1997: Monju accident: from FBR to MOX use
  - METI took over “Pu-hegemony” from STA
- ✓ 2000: High level waste disposal law
- ✓ 2004: Political argument about Rokkasho
  - Both METI and TEPCO break-up internally

## 3. After 3.11

- ✓ 2012.9 DPJ nuclear phase-out by 2030s, keep Rokkasho reprocessing
- ✓ 2012.9 Japan Academy Science recommendation
  - Long term interim storage with controlling total amount of HLW

# Nuclear (Waste) Governance collapse after Fukushima

1. Before 3.11 structural double standard
  - ✓ Ritual and formalism in front side, strong “nuclear village” network connections in back side
  - ✓ De-facto no participatory, no accountability and no democracy, however try to pretend so as it is.
2. After 3.11 under restructuring by DPJ
  - ✓ Some “restructuring” was going on, e.g. old NISA/NSC to new NRA, but stopped in the middle
  - ✓ Such as AEC-J still there, officially no change yet de-facto no power left
3. After 3.11 since Abe-METI cabinet
  - ✓ Vaguely METI seems to take all the “power” de-facto without no official order/ruling yet
  - ✓ No institute/person under the government to integrate nuclear (waste) policy nor Fukushima accident recovery management.
  - ✓ In addition, “Fukushima derived decontamination waste” is left behind and nowhere to go, besides of “contaminated water leakage”

# Lesson learned from the history

Hollow center → Lack of responsibility

Neglect the fact → Spreading “Myth”

Keep face, no reality → Worst decision



# Final remarks

1. Now we Japan's society stands tough and difficult position economically, societal and politically.
2. History tells us such irrational politics must soon or later collapse. But, by what chance and how ?
3. There could be 3 scenarios;
  - Scenarios 1: Fukushima leakage risk could be trigger by voluntarily, by (international) pressure or what else
  - Scenarios 2: TEPCO restructuring, also link to Fukushima leakage risk, to take over responsibility to recover Fukushima could be trigger to change
  - Scenarios 3: unfortunate accident occurring at or outside of Fukushima might public attention toward Abe-METI Cabinet