# What can we catch from the changes in the soundscpape after Fukushima nuclear accident?

#### Koji Nagahata (Fukushima University)

#### Please listen to three kind of sounds first.



KOTORI NO MORI@May 1,2011 SHINHAMA PARK@May 1, 2011 SHINOBUYAMA@May 1, 2001

# • What did you hear?

• What didn't you hear?

• What do you catch from this?

# Please listen to three more sounds.



KOTORI NO MORI@May 2, 2015 SHINHAMA PARK@May 2, 2015 SHINOBUYAMA@May 2, 2015

- What did you hear?
- What didn't you hear?
- What's the difference from three sounds that you listened to earlier?
- What do you catch from these?

# FUKUSHIMA SOUNDSCAPE PROJECT



- The purpose of the project is to record and report the changes in sound environment after Fukushima nuclear accident.
  - ◆ May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011: Starts recording
  - May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011: Starts publishing on the Web

# What is 'Soundscape'?

• It is the world of the sounds that we hear in daily life.

• Academic definition

An environment of sound (sonic environment) with emphasis on the way it is perceived and understood by the individual, or by a society. It thus depends on the relationship between the individual and any such environment.

• Soundscape Study is considered as a transdisciplinary field of science, social science and arts.

# Goal of Soundscape study

- Make the quality of sound environment better socially, psychologically and aesthetically.
- Improve sound environment to the level that it is harmonized with and never destroy human <u>health</u> and welfare.

# What is 'being healthy'?

• Are you healthy, now?

- If you think you are 'healthy', why?
- If you think you are 'not healthy', why?

cf. WHO's definition of 'being healthy' Totally well-being physically, psychologically and socially. It is different from just being disease-free or not physically weak.

#### My interests as a soundscape researcher

- What is a 'good' sound environment?
  - What is a sound environment where people can live well?
- How can we create such a sound environment?
  - Participation of citizens/ interested party

Let's think if we can say that the life in Fukushima is 'good'.

# **KOTORI NO MORI**



May 1, 2011



Aug 5, 2012





May 2, 2015

- A bird sanctuary set by Fukushima City
- Operated based on the policy, 'conserve the environment of SATOYAMA, country-side forest'
- Chosen as one of 'Conserving 100 Soundscapes in Japan'.
- <Personally>
  - Utilize in environmental education for children.
  - Walk there for recreation.

# **KOTORI NO MORI**











May 1, 2011 May

May 26,2012

Aug 5, 2012

Aug 3, 2013

May 2, 2015

 Creatures such as birds, frogs and cicadas are living In nature as they used to before the nuclear accident.

### Cf. Silent Spring (by R. Carson)

- It is Human beings that keep silent.
- People's silence is still remained here.

# Question to you 1

People living in some areas in Fukushima

still are scared of radiation effects and keep

'quiet'. It is under the opposite circumstance

stated in "Silent Spring". Can we say that it

is a good living or healthy living?

# SHINHAMA PARK



May 1, 2011



March 3, 2012



March 11, 2015

- A park near the city hall
- One of hot spots found foremost in the city.
- A park where decontamination work was done successfully in early stage.
- <Personally>
  - Utilize in environmental education for children.
  - One of the parks preferred by my children.

# SHINOBUYAMA



May 1, 2011







March 11, 2015

- Symbolic place for the 'environment' in Fukushima City.
  The place famous for cherry-blossom viewing in the city
- One of the hot spots found foremost in the city.

<Personally>

- Utilize as a venue for environmental education every year.
- One of potential locations for cherry-blossom viewing.

#### A comparison of SHINHAMA PARK with SHINOBUYAMA



March 11, 2012

March 11, 2012

April 15, 2013

- Children came back early to the park where decontamination was considered fully effective.
- People gather on a special day even in the park where decontamination wasn't really effective.
- → People found ways dealing with excess radiation.

# Question to you 2

Can we say that the situation where people

choose and learn ways dealing with excess

radiation is a healthy living?

Do you want to live a life in which you learn

how to deal with radiation?

# Decontamination



June 17, 2011@Nankodai



Jan 12, 2013@Watari



Jan 19 2015@Fukushima Univ.

- The earliest public decontamination work started in summer, 2011.
- After 4 years, the work is still ongoing.
- Decontamination work mainly consists of:
  - Remove contaminated soil
     Remove fallen leaves
  - Cut the grass
  - Wash gutters

High-pressure washing

# Question to you 3

Can we say that the life in which we daily keep hearing noises from decontamination work, that is done to protect our health, is healthy?

Do you want to live in such environment

where you hear such noises daily?

# Temporary storage yard



June 4, 2014@Matsukawa



April 11, 2015@Shinobuyama



Jan 29, 2015@Fukushima Univ.

- The place for temporarily storing radioactive pollutants from decontamination work before delivering them to the interim storage facilities.
- It often is located in a sanctuary for creatures such as bird because the locations where the storage has a low impact on human beings are chosen.

# Question to you 4

The situation where the habitats of creatures

were destroyed in the name of protecting human

beings' living environment has clearly showed the

impacts of nuclear accident on creatures. Can we

say that living in such environment is healthy?

# **Before conclusion**

- In Fukushima, after nuclear accident, it may say that people's 'health' is maintained in a narrow sense.
- Then, can we say that those people live there in physically, psychologically, socially 'good' condition?

#### or

• Do you want to live in such circumstances?

Koji Nagahata

# Last question to you

## What should we do to truly recover healthy

life in Fukushima?

## Thank you for your kind attention.