

Introductory & Concluding Remarks
Dorothy Hodgkin Lecture
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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Thank you very much Madame chairperson, and distinguished guests and Pugwashites. It is my great honor to speak at the Dorothy Hodgkin Lecture. Before I start the lecture, I would like to make a few remarks on my personal feelings on this issue.

First is "sympathy." I would like to express my deepest sympathy and condolences for victims and their families of the Earthquake and Tsunami. In particular, personal sympathy goes to people who have been forced to evacuate from their own home and land. And even after three months they are not sure when they will be able to come back to their own homes and some fear that they may not be able to come back forever. It is heartbreaking to watch the site and hear people's anger, frustration and anxiety over the accident and their future.

Second is "regret." As a researcher who has been working on nuclear energy policy for over thirty years and as a government official, I am truly regretful for what happened at Fukushima. How could this happen? Why could not we prevent the accident? How can we prevent a nuclear disaster in the future? These are the questions that I am asking myself every day since March 11. I believe this is our responsibility to answer to those questions with complete transparency and sincerity. This is the only way, I believe, to restore the trust lost by this accident.

Third is "thank you." I would like to express my sincere thanks for all the assistance and heartwarming supports given to us after the Earthquake and the accident. I also thank you for this great opportunity to give a talk in front of such a distinguished international audience. To be honest, I did not think the speech on Fukushima is not suited to this respectable Lecture. It is not an honor at all, I thought. But, I am overwhelmed by the warm encouragements and words of thanks to my "Fukushima Update." (It started for my own personal record. Cyber space changed everything. Thanks to Sandy, it was posted on Pugwash website/Pugwash Forum, and so the Bulletin. Suddenly I could not stop the update.) In

order to respond to those warm supports, I am convinced that it is my (and Japan's) responsibility to share the information and experiences of the accident as much as possible. So, I decided to accept this Lecture, not necessarily as an honor, but as a responsibility of an expert and as a responsible official to share the information and lessons learned with the international community.

So, this is how I make presentation today. All information used in my presentation is publicly available and I put all references in the slides.

[Please see Powerpoint presentation]

CONCLUDING REMARKS

I would like to conclude my talk with the following remarks.

First, we should be able to overcome this tragic accident with our wisdom. Yes this is an unprecedented crisis, but crisis can be an opportunity. We will draw lessons and come up with innovative ideas to improve safety of nuclear power plants and to clean up the site. If we cannot control nuclear energy, how can we control nuclear weapons?

Second, let's make Fukushima as a symbol of "recovery". Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the victims of nuclear destruction, but became symbols of "peace." Fukushima is now victim of one of the most serious nuclear accidents in human history. But, I sincerely believe Fukushima can become a symbol of "recovery."

Finally, in order to achieve the above two goals, I believe that the role of Pugwash and experts like you can be extremely important. I hope my talk today can contribute to better understanding of the accident and be useful for your own judgment on what actually happened and to draw lessons from this tragic accident.

Thank you very much for your attention.