

## Teach311.org Video Archive

### *Healing Fukushima* (2016) documentary film clips: Questions for the Classroom

#### **Hasegawa Arifumi:**

Introductory questions: What field of medical science are these students studying in? Expand on/ what do you think they might be learning in this particular seminar they are attending.

Intermediate questions: What are the possible reasons for Hasegawa asking his student to use the example of a 5-year old child to explain the difference between a 'radioactive substance' and 'radioactivity'? Why might it be important for those in the medical field to disseminate information to the public such as this?

Advanced questions: Why do you think it is essential for members of the public to understand terms such as these? Do you think that these concepts matter to people affected by nuclear disaster, and how important would the availability of this information to the general populace be?

Are these understandings and information important only to those living near nuclear power plants?

#### **Kumagai Atsushi:**

Kumagai Atsushi puts forth his personal views on the amount of agency that he thinks people in Japan should have in deciding where they live. Discuss the role of knowledge, and consider the importance (or not) of the individual's ability to assess both the built environment (high-risk structures like nuclear power plants, chemical plants) and physical geography (seismic trends, earthquake hazards) surrounding one's living spaces.

#### **Okubo Reiko:**

Introductory questions: Who is Okubo Reiko? Explain her career trajectory. What was Okubo's experience as the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant explosion occurred? What did she learn about radiation, according to her interview?

Intermediate questions: What kind of decisions did Okubo have to make in the years after the power plant explosion as a professional and as a private citizen? How does her expertise inform her decisions or attitudes about living in Fukushima?

Advanced questions: Why do you think the director chose to interview Okubo? How does Okubo's situation and perspective compare to those of the other interview subjects? If you could meet Okubo yourself, what would you like to ask her, and why?

**Additional Discussion: Pick another interview from the oral history interview collection. Examine your chosen interview in relation to any one of the interviews in the *Healing Fukushima* (2016) collection.**

(Example 1)

In the third clip of Otomo Mai's interview, Otomo reflected on her visit to disaster-hit neighbourhoods in New Orleans, and saw a need for communities back home in Japan to actively contribute to disaster rebuilding on their own initiative.

Do you think that what Kumagai Atsushi said about the personal responsibility of weighing risks, especially for those living in the vicinity of nuclear power plants, applies to community rebuilding efforts for disaster-affected areas? You may also consider using the interview with Reiko Okubo.

(Example 2)

Consider what Dr. Nakamura Susumu, an engineer by training, says about the need for communication for establishing common consensus on power plant building standards between engineers, citizens and the government. Now think about Kumagai Atushi's view, articulated from a position as a medical specialist, on the answerability of the private citizen to assess the risks of living in the vicinity of nuclear power plants.

Comparing these, how do you think 'responsibility' is defined differently for each individual in relation to their field of expertise?

With regard to safety frameworks in the nuclear industry, do engineering and building industries also need to be in communication with medical professionals? [Tip: You may consider, among others, the definition of *nuclear safety* given by the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www-ns.iaea.org/standards/concepts-terms.asp#top>) to frame your response.]