

2011 April 8

To All Concerned in Overseas

Message from chairperson of FSCJ—On the occasion of completing an emergency report on radioactive nuclides in foods

On March 11, an enormous earthquake and ensuing tsunami of unprecedented scale struck Japan taking a great number of precious lives and properties. In addition to those disasters, radioactive leakage from the Fukushima nuclear plant has forced people to spend hard days and nights in evacuation centres coping with fear and anxiety. I would like to express my most sincere appreciation for a tremendous outpouring of encouragement and support from people worldwide. Through our own efforts and with the help of the global community, now we, people of Japan, are united and bracing ourselves for rebuilding the nation with our most deeply held belief that Japan will overcome this tragedy.

The Food Safety Commission of Japan was established in July 2003, as part of Japanese Cabinet Office in order to implement science-based risk assessments in an objective, neutral and unbiased manner.

As regards radioactive contamination in foods due to the nuclear plant accident, FSCJ had emergency and intensive deliberations since 22 March, 2011 with the experts in radioactive food contamination. On March 29, FSCJ notified MHLW of our emergency report on radioactive nuclides in foods. The report addressing radioactive iodine-131 and cesium-134/137 has been drawn up in a highly conservative manner in favor of securing human health. It can be concluded that the provisional regulation values established by MHLW are based on and in line with such a bit too stringent safety criteria. Therefore, the ongoing safeguarding measures, we believe, are effective enough to ensure the safety of vegetable, seafood and other foodstuffs placed in domestic markets and exported abroad from Japan.

The warm support to Japan does involve your calm and rational behavior unaffected by groundless rumors, which will be definitely encouraging the people of Japan who are putting every effort into its rehabilitation. I deeply appreciate your course of action based on unbiased scientific data on foods imported to your country from Japan.



Naoko Koizumi, MD.

Chairperson
Food Safety Commission