

Initiatives taken for the stability of the Fukushima nuclear disaster refugees residence

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1. Foreword

As a result of the Great East Japan Earthquake, which triggered an earthquake, tsunami and a nuclear disaster at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima Prefecture, although four years has elapsed since that event, roughly 130,000 people still remain in a refugee status. Indeed, the maintenance of disaster public housings, which functions as their life base in Fukushima Prefecture, has become a major issue for the long-term project refugees as a result of the nuclear disaster.

Because of this, we have continuously been providing a variety of technical support (teaching) for projects pertaining to the disaster public housings for Fukushima Prefecture since the disaster. As well, since a large percentage of the long-term project refugees seeking residence in the disaster public housings tend to be in the elderly age bracket, we are researching collaborative measures with welfare to aid the stability in the refugees' homes.

2. The situation/plan of providing housing/services to the refugee municipalities

The following situation and plan regarding providing housing/services has been arranged for five municipalities in particular (Namie-machi, Futaba-machi, Okuma-machi, Tomioka-machi, Iitate-mura) facing issues of long-term project refugees. (1) Transition of the number of refugees in the municipalities, (2) the location of the temporary housing, (3) activities of the elderly support center being set up/operated (content of the services provided), (4) implementation status of

elderly care by the social welfare council, (5) locational characteristics of the public disaster housings (life base for the long-term refugees) where the residents concerned will dwell etc.

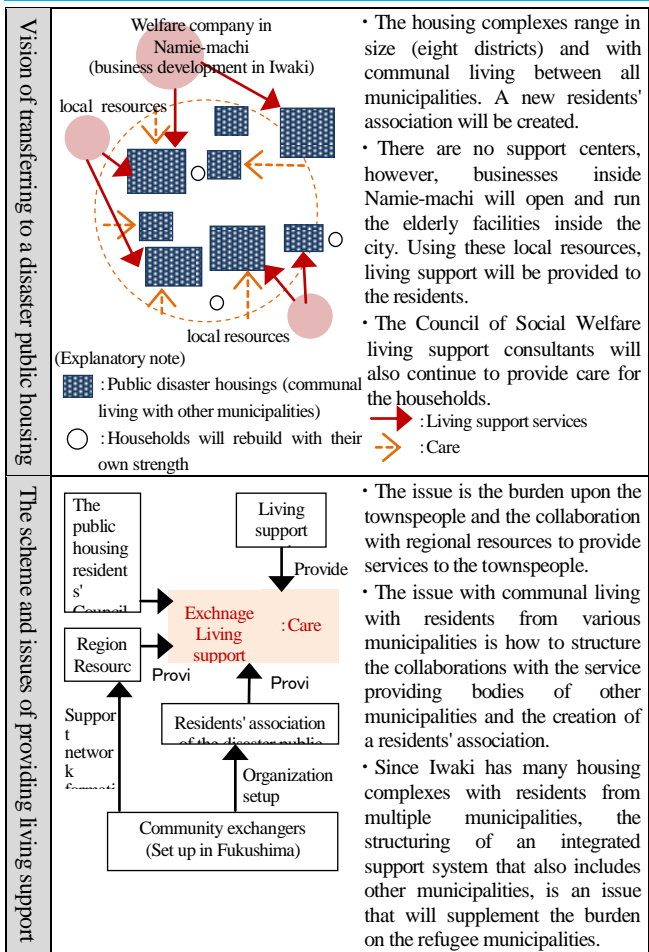
3. The vision of making the transition from public housing to public disaster housings and providing living support in the case of Namie-machi

All of Namie-machi's 21,000 residents are refugees. The number of refugees inside the prefecture is roughly 15,000, spread amongst the municipalities of Fukushima (3,500), Iwaki (2,600), Nihonmatsu (2,300), Koriyama (1,700) etc. (as of June 1, 2014).

"Elderly support centers" were opened in the cities of Nihonmatsu, Motomiya, Fukushima and Koori, to provide temporary and rental housing and living support to the refugees.

Public disaster housings to accommodate refugees from Namie-machi are scheduled in Fukushima, Nihonmatsu, Koriyama, Iwaki and Minamisoma etc. The vision and issues pertaining to the transition to public housing and providing living support differs with the relation between the scale of the housing complex and the municipalities, as well as the conditions of the existing living support being provided. The vision and the issues pertaining to forming the living base in Iwaki are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: The vision and the issues of forming the living base in Iwaki



4. Future issues concerning the collaboration with housing and welfare

There are many housing complexes providing communal living for refugees from multiple local governments in Iwaki and other cities in the prefecture. The issue is how to create collaborations between the receiving local government end and the multiple local governments of the refugees in order to create community support through exchanges in the prefecture and provide care and preventive care for the elderlies.