Assessments by International Organizations

Major Conclusions of the Reports of International Organizations

	Major conclusions
WHO Reports	• Even in the area where the highest exposure dose was estimated, no significant increase would be observed in risks of childhood thyroid cancer and other types of cancer or leukemia and increased incidence of these diseases exceeding natura variation is hardly expected. • The results suggest that increases in the incidence of diseases attributable to the additional radiation exposure are likely to remain below detectable levels.
UNSCEAR 2013 Report	• It is not likely that any significant changes attributable to radiation exposure due to the accident would arise in future cancer statistics. • There is the possibility that thyroid cancer risks may theoretically increase among the group of children whose estimated exposure doses were at the highest level. Therefore, their situations need to be closely followed up and assessed.
UNSCEAR 2020/2021 Report	• **No adverse health effects among Fukushima residents directly attributable to radiation exposure have been observed, and future health effects directly related to radiation exposure are unlikely to be discernible.** • **Increases in incidence of thyroid cancer in the Thyroid Ultrasound Examination that has been conducted in Fukushima after the nuclear accident are considered to be the result of sensitive ultrasound screening procedures.**

The WHO Reports published in 2012 and 2013, along with the UNSCEAR 2013 Report, state that their assessments of exposure doses contain certain uncertainties due to uncertainties inherent to basic data. However, the UNSCEAR 2020/2021 Report shows conclusions with less uncertainties on many issues as a broader range of knowledge became available.

The UNSCEAR 2020/2021 Report compiles all pieces of scientific information concerning levels and effects of radiation exposure due to the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi NPS that were published by the end of 2019 and assesses the influence on the knowledge and conclusions of the UNSCEAR 2013 Report.

Based on new knowledge, etc. on exposure dose assessment that became clear after the publication of the UNSCEAR 2013 Report, it became possible for the UNSCEAR to conduct improved and more realistic assessment of levels and effects of radiation exposure after the accident in its 2020/2021 Report. Based on the fact that public exposure doses that were reviewed based on new knowledge were lower or at the same level compared with those in the 2013 Report, the UNSCEAR concluded that "future health effects directly related to radiation exposure are unlikely to be discernible." With regard to many cases of thyroid cancer detected in Thyroid Ultrasound Examination, which was conducted as part of the Fukushima Health Management Survey, the UNSCEAR assessed that "these cases are not stem from the result of radiation exposure but rather arise from the result of sensitive ultrasound screening procedures." Furthermore, the UNSCEAR concluded that "there has been no evidence of excess congenital anomalies, stillbirths, preterm deliveries related to radiation exposure among general public."

Included in this reference material on March 31, 2023