



Advances in the Water Environment in Japan

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Outline of the Basic Act on Water Cycle Policy (1)

Purpose (Article 1)

The objective of this Act is to promote measures related to water cycles in an integrated and comprehensive manner, and this Act, hereby, contributes to maintaining or recovering to the sound water cycle and achieving the sound development of the economy and society and the stable improvement of the citizens' lives.

Definitions (Article 2)

Water cycles

→Water cycles shall mean that water circulates mainly in river basins as surface water and ground water during the process of reaching to the oceans and other destinations through evaporation, precipitation, flow and infiltration.

Sound water cycles

→Water cycles in a condition that the function of water, serving the preservation of the environment and human activities, is properly maintained.

Basic Principle(Article 3)

1. Importance of the water cycle
2. Public nature of water
3. Consideration toward sound water cycles
4. Comprehensive river basin management
5. International cooperation regarding water cycles

- Obligations of the national and local governments (Articles 4 – 7)
- Collaboration and cooperation among the parties concerned (Article 8)
- Basic policy on measures (Article 9)
- Water Day (August 1st) (Article 10)
- Legislative measures, etc. (Article 11)
- Annual report (Article 12)

Outline of the Basic Act on Water Cycle Policy (2)

Basic Plan on Water Cycle Policy (Article 13)

Basic measures (Articles 14-21)

1. Maintenance and improvement of reserving and recharging functions
2. Promotion of proper and effective use of water, etc.
3. Promotion of cooperation in river basins, etc.
4. Promotion of education regarding sound water cycles, etc.
5. Measures for promoting voluntary activities by private organizations, etc.
6. Implementation of surveys necessary for formulating water cycle measures
7. Promotion of science and technology
8. Ensuring of international partnerships and the promotion of international cooperation

The Headquarters for Water Cycle Policy (Articles 22-30)

- Establishment of a **Headquarters for Water Cycle Policy** in the Cabinet to promote the measures regarding water cycles intensively and comprehensively
- Formulation of a draft of the Basic Plan on Water Cycle Policy
- Comprehensive coordination of measures implemented by the relevant administrative organizations
- Planning, preparation and comprehensive coordination of important measures on water cycles

Organization

Director-General: Prime Minister

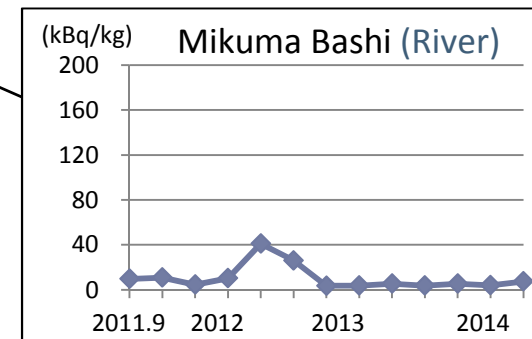
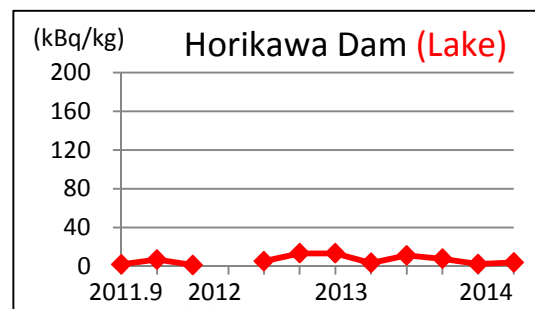
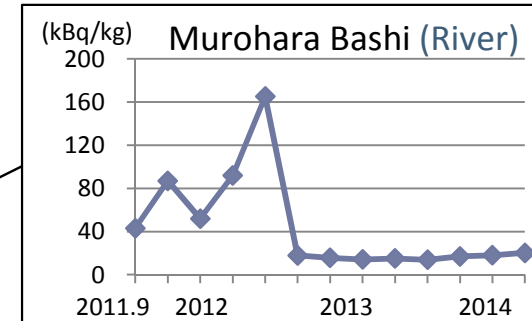
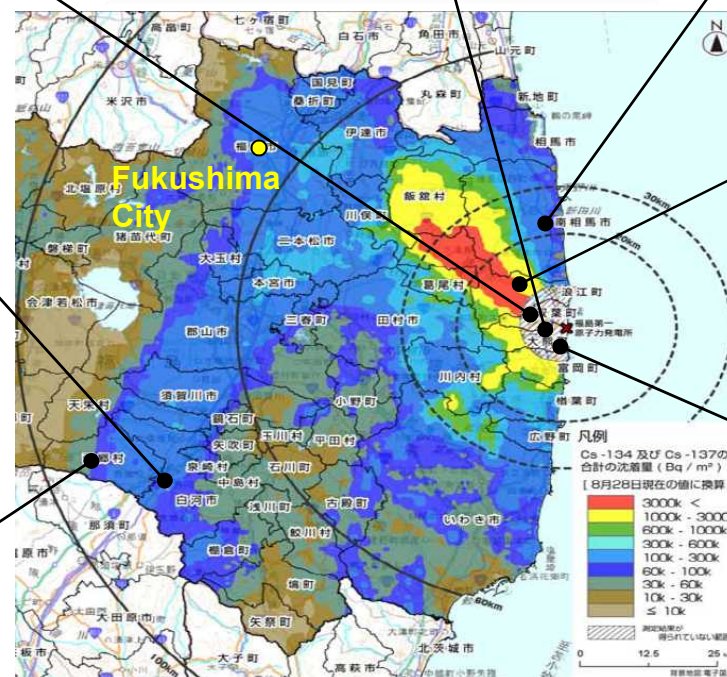
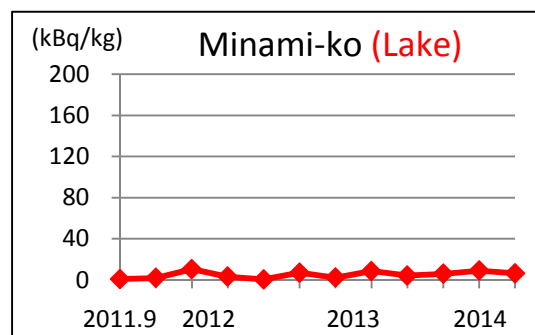
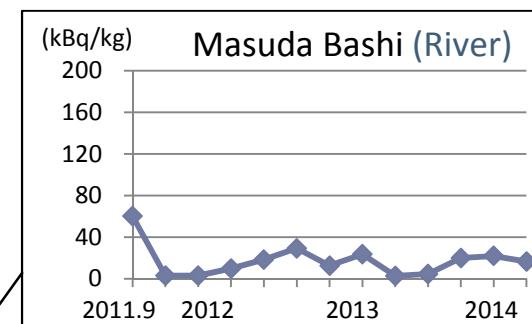
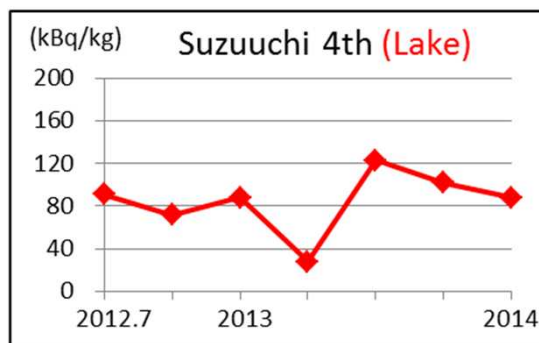
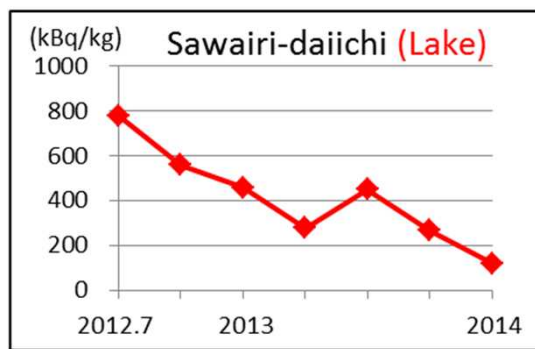
Vice-Director-General:

The Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister for Water Cycle Policy

Members: All Ministers of States

Radioactive Materials in Water Environment in Fukushima

- Radioactive materials are not detected in the water at most water bodies.
(Minimum Detection Value = 1Bq/L)
- The concentrations in sediments are staying at low levels or decreasing with some variations at most sampling points, but still high at some points: See below.



Key Findings and Observations

- Most of radioactive cesium on the land surface are absorbed into or firmly fixed to certain minerals, and the cesium hardly dissolve in water under normal conditions.
- Radioactive cesium in the water of lakes, rivers and ground water are imperceptible or far below the drinking water standard.
- Radioactive cesium is found in the sediments of the lakes and rivers, but the radiation from contaminated sediments is substantially reduced with shield effects of the water layer covering the sediments.
- The enhanced screening process for fishery products works well to protect human health.
- The most of cesium reached forests are stuck on the surface materials, and a recent estimation tells that only 0.26% of the cesium in the forests annually flows down.
- Massive clean-up works such as dredging could increase the cesium in the water and human health risks, and we have not been able to find disposal sites for a massive amount of dredged sediments yet.
- Thus, the government cannot justify the clean-up works for the lake and river systems.

- The lake and river systems, especially lakes, accumulate and hold long-lasting pollutants such as radioactive cesium in their sediments, and it is quite difficult to justify the clean-up works.
- In order to control human health risks from radioactive cesium, the environmental monitoring and the enhanced screening of the fishery products must be continued for a considerably long time.



Sunset at Lake Sinjiko, Japan

Thank you for your attention