

Sustainable Energy: Questions from Fukushima

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Questions from Fukushima

- Is nuclear energy sustainable?
- What are the *real* costs of nuclear energy?
- How about more sustainable energy sources?

Is nuclear energy sustainable?

Discourses of sustainability
before and after the Fukushima nuclear meltdown

“Nuclear Power, Energy for the Bright Future”



Nuclear Power for Sustainable Fisheries



Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant (rear)
Fish hatchery (front)

“Until the accident, the nuclear power plant and we coexisted in peace and prosperity.”

— a fisheries official of Fukushima



Fukushima fish hatchery in 2011

What are the *real* costs of nuclear energy?

- The conventional calculation: construction and maintenance → allegedly, cost efficient
- Missing numbers: the costs of an accident

The Costs of the Fukushima Disaster

Latest government estimate:

US\$200 billion

- Decommission: \$80 billion
- Decontamination: \$40 billion
- Compensation: \$80 billion



Incalculable Costs

- Sociocultural losses
 - Identities (as fishers, as farmers, etc.)
 - Senses of home, hometown, community, family, friendship
- Uncertain economics of compensation



How about more sustainable energy sources?

Fukushima Floating Offshore Wind Farm Demonstration Project (Fukushima FORWARD)



All-Japan Consortium



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“Fukushima Future”



The Original Plan



A 3D Rendering of Fukushima Offshore Floating Wind Farm
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In Suspension



This Panel's Questions:

In an era of deepening anthropogenic climate change, what are the costs involved in transitioning to more sustainable energy sources? How can governments balance environmental and economic concerns?