

# 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?