



NPO TARACHINE

How **ordinary Japanese housewives** with young children in Fukushima have come to run a **World-class laboratory** for measuring radiation.



Who We Are

NPO Mothers' Radiation Lab Fukushima –

TARACHINE was established by local residents to protect our health and livelihood from the damage due to radiation caused by the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident on March 11, 2011.

We, mothers set up a laboratory and started measuring the radiation levels of food by ourselves and searched for safe food to consume. We are working every day to protect the health and future of children and to provide useful information to the community.



Our History

2011

- Mar. 11th The Great East Japan Earthquake triggered the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station
- Nov.13th **NPO Mothers' Radiation Lab Fukushima - TARACHINE** was set up by local mothers

2012

- In collaboration with Kuminosato in Okinawa, started a health resort therapy retreat for children in Fukushima
- Opened children's Retreat Counseling Center

2013

- Launched on-site thyroid screening project
- Started measuring radiation in collaboration with TEAM Mamabeku

2014

Adding laboratory for measuring beta-ray nuclides; Strontium-90 and Tritium

2015

Started marine surveys off the coast of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

2017

Opened **TARACHINE Pediatric Clinic**

2018

In collaboration with Orto dei Sogni in Italy, started a health resort therapy retreat for children in Fukushima

2019

Started **Ateliers TARACHINE**, a mental health care project for children

2021

In collaboration with Kumabeko Mothers' Group for Protecting Children in Aizu, started a health resort therapy retreat for children in Fukushima

2020

Started obtaining and installing equipment for measuring all 3 kinds of Tritium over 3 years

**~
2022**

Our Main Activities

Laboratory for Measuring Radiation

At our Lab, the amount of Cesium 137, Cesium 134, Tritium and Strontium-90 are measured in Food, Drinking Water, Soil, Seawater.

Marine Survey

Measuring radiation in the seawater, fish and at fixed points off the coast of the destroyed nuclear plant.

Pediatric Clinic

Free check-ups and thyroid ultrasound examination for children who were under 18 years old at the time of the accident.

Thyroid Cancer Screening

On-site Thyroid exam in various locations in and out of Fukushima.

Therapeutic Camping Retreats for Kids

Okinawa / Aizu in Fukushima / Orto dei Sogni in Italy

Mental Health Care at "Atelier TARACHINE"

Psychosomatic massage, Narrative Yoga for kids and adult, Hakoniwa sand play, drawing and various art activities.



Preparing for measuring radiation at our laboratory



Measuring radioactivity in the Ocean off the coast of destroyed Fukushima's nuclear plants

Thyroid cancer exam at our clinic



Laboratory for Measuring Radiation



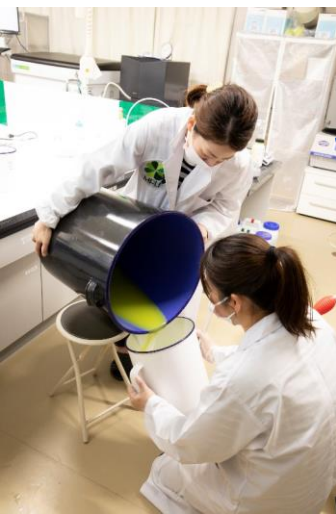
There is no clear line on how much radiation exposure is harmful for the body. In order to protect children's health, it is important not to expose them to radiation.

Radiation cannot be seen, smelled, or felt, we cannot know the actual degree of contamination until we actually measure it.

That's how we started measuring cesium-137, cesium-134, Tritium, and Strontium-90 on food, air, water, soil and seawater.

Our radiation measurement results are published every month in our website since 2011.

(<https://tarachineiwaki.org/english>)



★Gamma-ray Measuring instrument		Feature					
Product of BUSINESS JAPAN	Product of BUSINESS JAPAN	Na I Scintillation Spectrometer	Gamma-ray spectrometer with Na I scintillation detector.				
※The lower limit varies depending on the sample weight and measurement time.							
Measuring instrument: Na I Scintillation Spectrometer	Samples	Sampling Point	Sampling Month	Measurement Result	Uncertainty	Guide to lower limit※	
						Total amount of Caesium	Minimum Limit of Detection
	Potato	Furehiki, Tamara, Fukushima	Jan-23	Ca137 Ca134	± ±	Under Minimum Limit of Detection	Food (Sample 1kg) Lower limit 1.0Bq/Kg Soil (Sample 1kg) Lower limit 1.0Bq/Kg Water (Sample 20L) Lower limit 0.02Bq/L
	Taro	Tanikawa, Iohikawa, Fukushima	Feb-23	Ca137 Ca134	± ±	Under Minimum Limit of Detection	
	Jerusalem artichoke	Tanikawa, Iohikawa, Fukushima	Feb-23	Ca137 Ca134	± ±	Under Minimum Limit of Detection	
	Sweet potato	Takaki, Nishihirakawa, Fukushima	Jan-23	Ca137 Ca134	± ±	Under Minimum Limit of Detection	
	Sweet potato	Kanata, Fukushima Pref.	Feb-23	Ca137 Ca134	± ±	Under Minimum Limit of Detection	

We're the **only citizen-led laboratory** in the world **capable of measuring radioactive nuclides, Tritium and Strontium-90** in food, water and soil.

Pretreatment equipment for measuring 3 different kinds of Tritium



Tritium Condensation Apparatus

Analysis equipment for the levels of Tritium and Strontium-90

Our liquid scintillation counters with ultra low-level sensitivity are capable of detecting low-level radioactivity.



Hide 300SL



Quantulus GCT6220



HITACHI Aloka LSC-LB8

Marine Survey

Right now, we are facing to repeat the same tragedy of 13 years ago in Fukushima. It's the **planned release of the contaminated radioactive water** stored in the tanks at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the ocean.

Through our 13 years of continuous measuring radiation and marine surveys, we've confirmed the amount of radiation in agricultural products in Fukushima and in the marine environment have been decreasing.

However, the release of the contaminated water this time means we are returning to the environment of "that day" again. This problem is not only for Japan, but for the entire world.

In order to protect the future of our children, we have established a system to measure Tritium and Strontium-90 in seawater, fish, and plankton, and will continue our scientific marine surveys.



Measured nuclides:

Cesium 134 & 137
Strontium 90
Tritium

1.5 km off the coast of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant



Pediatric & Internal Medicine Clinic



Our clinic offers thyroid examinations, whole-body radiation measurements using a whole body counter machine, ionization examinations, and annual health check-up.

We try to create space where our patients can freely talk about their health concerns while living in an affected area. We welcome anyone from babies to the elderly.

We issue “checkup booklet” for kids

Its main contents are

- Thyroid echo exam result
- Urinary cesium level
- Whole Body Counter result
- Blood test result
- Electrocardiogram
- Hearing test result



This booklet was made with our hope that the children who were young at the time of the accident will be able to protect their own health when they become adults.

On-site Thyroid Cancer Screenings



We conduct on-site thyroid screening examinations in Fukushima Prefecture and neighboring areas. Since it began in 2013, **16,500 people** have undergone thyroid screening with us. None of them have had pediatric thyroid cancer requiring surgery.

The examination will be performed by a specialist doctor and the result will be explained in details. We provide a safe place where you can ask anything that worries them. The people from the neighboring prefectures also visiting our on-site screening for thyroid examinations. This means so many of them are still worried about their health.

The examination is **free** of charge for the children who were 18 years old or younger on the day of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Therapeutic Camping Retreats



Our children have lost the playground where they grew up in close contact with nature due to the environmental contamination caused by the nuclear accident.

TARACHINE cooperates with 3 organizations and serves as a liaison office for health resort therapy retreats where children in Fukushima can play in nature and spend a relaxing time.

Childhood is short and precious. These retreat provides the children with a chance to do what they can only do when they are children.

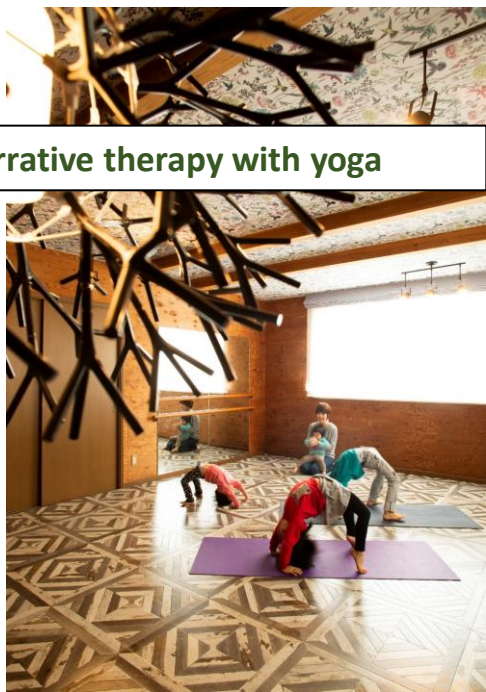
- “Kumi no Sasto” in Kume Island, Okinawa (4 - 5 day stay)
- "Orto dei Soni" in Pietra Ligure, Italy (One month stay)
- “Kumabeko” in Tadami, Fukushima (2 - 3 day stay)

Atelier TARACHINE

Various fun art programs for kids



Narrative therapy with yoga



Mental Health Care at “Atelier TARACHINE”



We provide mental health care for children and their parents, especially their mothers who have survived hardships caused by the nuclear disaster

Psychosomatic Massage & Narrative Therapy with Yoga

Physical and psychological massage for children and mothers. Mental fatigue also affects the body. A gentle massage will relax their body and mind. We also incorporate narrative therapy with yoga to value each person's story.

Hakoniwa sand box, Drawing, Clay, Pastel art

We provide a “safe space” where children can play freely on their own.

Articles by Major News Media

Christian Science Monitor (Mar. 2023)

“A lab of their own: How Fukushima moms led charge for radiation data”

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2023/0310/A-lab-of-their-own-How-Fukushima-moms-led-charge-for-radiation-data>

France 24 (Aug. 2021)

“The never-ending ordeal of handling radioactive water at Fukushima”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_IXhPW0bwA

(Our NPO part starts from 3:45 in the video)

Amnesty Journal Deutschland (Aug.2021)

“MADE IN FUKUSHIMA” (in German)

<https://www.amnesty.de/informieren/amnesty-journal/japan-fukushima-recht-auf-nahrung>

Bloomberg (Feb. 2021)

“Japan Tsunami 2011: Fukushima Moms Run Radiation Lab to Protect Their Kids”

<https://youtu.be/OQUTCZokSXk>

ALJAZEERA (Mar. 2021)

“We don’t know when it will end’: 10 years after Fukushima”

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/3/9/fallout-fukushima-10-years-after>

Other News Media TARACHINE was interviewed by:

New York Times, The Telegraph, Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen, Brasil Folha, Australia Broadcasting Corp. , and more

Recent Articles about Us Published by Major News Media

The New York Times

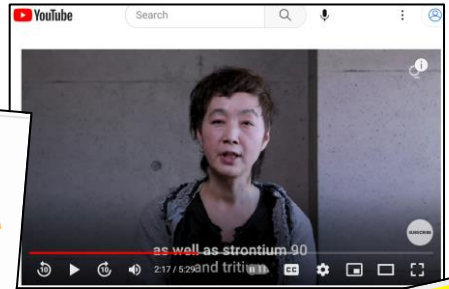
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