– Current Situation of Foods in Japan –
Basic Information on Radioactive Materials in the Standard Limits of Japanese Foods and Ways of Measuring the Radiation

September 2013
Current Situation of Foods in Japan

- The safety of Japanese food in the market today, including foods for import, is guaranteed, from a scientific point of view.

- Standard limits of radiation cesium in foods in general are: 1250 Bq/kg, for EU, 1000 Bq/kg for the Codex Criteria, an international guideline, and 100 Bq/kg for Japan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Foods</th>
<th>Standard Limits (Bq/kg)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drinking water</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Foods</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foods for Infants</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The standard limits have been set so that the total amount of additional exposure to the radiation from foods should be under 1mSv per year.

- The criterion of “under 1mSv per year” has been set by the Codex Commission; no additional response is required.
<Procedure of inspection of radioactive materials in foods>
- Check by combining efficient and rigorous inspections in various areas in Japan.

**Scintillation Detector**
- Under 50: Recognized as safe
  - ⇒ Distribution to the market

**Germanium Semi-conductor Detector**
- 50Bq/kg: And or over 50
- 100Bq/kg: And or over 100

- Recognized as foods over the standard limits
  - = Stopping shipment

- Recognized as safe
  - ⇒ Distribution to the market
The Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare of the Japanese government has done two different surveys to inspect foods both in the grocery stores and in home kitchens. The results revealed that the levels of radiation-cesium in foods distributed were all extremely low, thus food safety was ensured.

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< Ⅰ Inspection results of foods in ailes of grocery stores >
(Hokkaido Prefecture)  Estimated radiation at the annual base
0.0009 mSv (less than 1% of 1 mSv/year)

(Iwate Prefecture) 0.0094 mSv
(Fukushima Prefecture – Hamadori area) 0.0063 mSv
(Fukushima Prefecture – Nakadori area) 0.0066 mSv
(Fukushima Prefecture – Aizu area) 0.0039 mSv

< Ⅱ Inspection results of foods in home kitchens>
(Hokkaido Prefecture)  Estimated radiation at the annual base
0.0013 mSv (less than 1% of 1 mSv/year)

(Iwate Prefecture) 0.0035 mSv
(Fukushima Prefecture) 0.0022 mSv
(Tochigi Prefecture) 0.0030 mSv
(Ibaraki Prefecture) 0.0039 mSv