



Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am Vladimir Saenko of the Atomic Bomb Disease Institute, Nagasaki University, and a trainee of the NASHIM program in 1999.

I am delighted to extend my greetings to all Participants of this Symposium and also thank the Organizers for the opportunity to deliver a speech.

And first of all, I would like to congratulate Nagasaki Association for Hibakushas' Medical Care, NASHIM, with its 30th Anniversary.

It is a time span of a whole generation, during which NASHIM has been carrying out its noble mission under the guidance of the previous Chairmen Iseki Sensei, Makimoto Sensei and the present Chairman Morisaki Sensei.

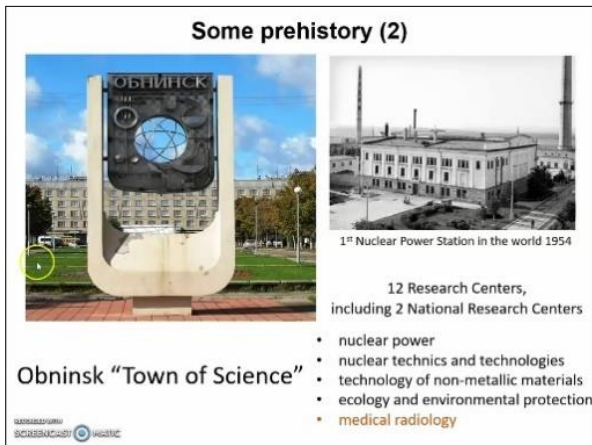
My deepest respect to you and your associates for all your efforts, and congratulations on the Anniversary!

As a NASHIM trainee of the "previous century", in this short presentation I would like to share some of my recalls and memories.



Let me begin with some prehistory.

My hometown in Russia is Obninsk, which is located 100 kilometers south-west of Moscow, and quite far from Nagasaki. Obninsk population is just one-quarter of Nagasaki, only slightly above 100,000 residents.



The photo on the left shows a symbol of Obninsk, and the central part of it is a model of an atom.

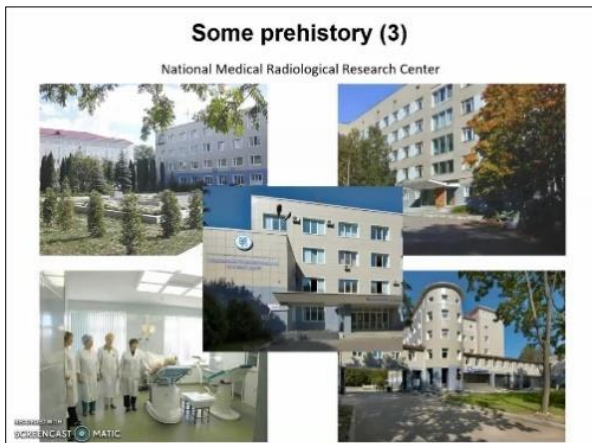
This is to emphasize an inseparable connection of the town with the so-called "peaceful atom" since Obninsk became known for the 1st Nuclear Power Station, which was built there in 1954.

Now, Obninsk holds a "Town of Science" title, being a place for 12 Research Centers of which 2 are National.

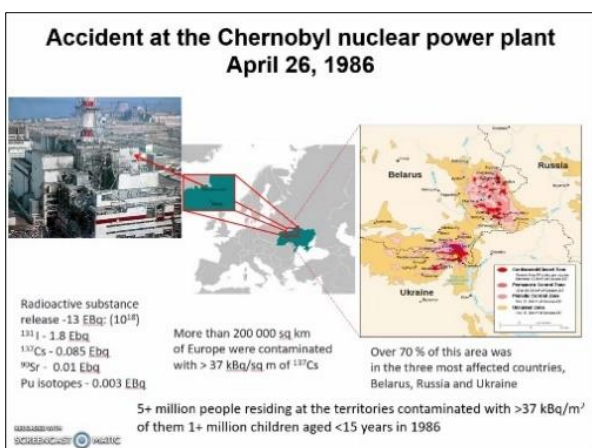
The major scientific areas of these Centers include Nuclear power, Nuclear technics and technologies, Technology of non-metallic materials, Ecology and environmental protection, and

Medical radiology.

The last is highlighted, as you can see, because before moving to Japan I was belonging exactly to this scientific area.



This is the National Medical Radiological Research Center, where I used to work.



The accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station occurred in the former Soviet Union in the north of Ukraine in the close proximity to the borders with Belarus and Russia.

As a result, a tremendous amount of radioactive substances was released into the environment. Large territories were heavily contaminated with fallouts.

The best known health effect for population was a sharp increase in the incidence of thyroid cancer in the residents of contaminated territories who were exposed to radiation at a young age.

The Medical Center in Obninsk where I was working was involved in medical and research activities around Chernobyl from the first days of the accident.



Doctors and researchers from Japan were among the first who offered help and advice in assessment of health consequences of the Chernobyl accident based on their experience from the A-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A great support was granted by Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation, which provided resources to built 5 diagnostic centers in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, and also delivered an equipment for the mobile diagnostic teams.

On the photo on the left you may recognize Yamashita Sensei, Shibata Sensei, Ito Sensei.

The photo on the right is somewhat historical to me. It was taken about 30 years ago in Obninsk at the meeting of the Japanese and Russian medical doctors and researchers.

Among the Japanese members you may recognize Shigematsu Sensei who was a Chairman of the Radiation Effect Research Foundation, Kiikuni Sensei of Sasakawa Foundation, and Yamashita Sensei.

The rightmost young participant is myself, but you may have a hard time recognizing me.

At that time I could not imagine that I was sitting so close to my future Professor at Nagasaki University, Yamashita Sensei.



This is a short overview of my contacts with the Japanese teams from the beginning of 1990-ies.

My most direct immersion to Japan was a training at Hiroshima Radiation Effect Research Foundation in July-August 1994, which was performed in frame of the WHO IPHECA Program, the International Program on Health Effects of the Chernobyl Accident.

Except for two years, which I spent in the United States as a postdoctoral research associate, the contact with the Japanese colleagues were continuing, and the main counterpart was

Yamashita Sensei.

Eventually, I was blessed to receive an invitation to the NASHIM summer program in 1999.



These are some happy highlights from July and August of 1999. At that time there were no digital cameras and cell phones yet, so these are the scans of real photos.

On the left, the very first day of training, the orientation by Yamashita Sensei and Takamura Sensei.

There were 7 of us in the group, from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia, and 1 member was from America, Dr. Sandy Rock, from the Hanford Nuclear Site.

On the right, the first meeting at NASHIM office and acquaintance with the Chairman Iseki Sensei.

NASHIM training course in 1999 July-August



Visits to the Prefectural and Municipal offices



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We visited the Prefectural and Municipal offices.

I was really impressed that such important offices did not have expensive or pretentious furniture, all was business-like.

NASHIM training course in 1999 July-August



Visits to the advanced Hospitals
Red Cross Hospital
Nagasaki University Hospital
Hamayu Hospital at Amakusa, etc.



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It was of a great interest to visit very good hospitals in Nagasaki city and around, like Genbaku Byoin, Diagaku Byoin, Hamayu Byoin.

Everywhere there were definite signs that people do care of patients and they were doing their best.

NASHIM training course in 1999 July-August

Self-introduction at the Welcome Party



Radiation Symposium at Igakubu



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We had some official gatherings, and even a scientific symposium at Pompe Hall of Igakubu, where I was talking about our molecular studies of the Chernobyl thyroid cancer in Russia.

NASHIM training course in 1999 July-August

Attending the Memorial Ceremony on August 9 at Peace Park



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Taking part in the Memorial Ceremony on August 9, Genbaku no hi, was a very touching event.

I attended the Memorial Ceremony in Hiroshima on August 6, 5 years ago.

Although the Peace Parks in Hiroshima and Nagasaki are quite different, both places were united by the same feelings: heartache for those perished in the bombings, empathy, carefully stored memories, and appeal and strive for peace.



During the second part of training, there was an opportunity to perform some experiments in a well-equipped laboratory, and to get in touch with some parts of the Japanese culture.



This is the picture taken at NASHIM office after handing in the Certificates of the training accomplishment. Again, very warm recalls.



Since the year of 2000, I joined Nagasaki University, starting to work as a Visiting Professor, then as an Assistant and then as an Associate Professor.

I am proud of holding this position by nowadays.

During these more than 20 years, I was continuing to take part in NASHIM training courses every year.

But not as a trainee, as a lecturer and instructor, similarly to other Professors and Colleagues from Nagasaki University.

That is why I entitled my speech “The decades of experience with NASHIM”.

Unfortunately, during the last two years, the NASHIM trainings were impeded by the coronavirus pandemics, and we did not have visitors in summer.

This is my hope and a wish that after the pandemics declines and is put under the control, NASHIM will resume its excellent program.

NASHIM activities...

- Provide excellent opportunity for medical doctors of various specialties and researchers to learn the most advanced treatment approaches and scientific investigation methodology ultimately aimed at the improvement of healthcare to people exposed to radiation and other health-threatening conditions. After returning back from Nagasaki, they use this knowledge at their institutions.
- Bring people from different countries together facilitating friendly and professional relationships.
- Contribute to people/civil/citizen diplomacy which is an essential component of peace work.

SHIMANE UNIVERSITY
NAGASAKI UNIVERSITY

In closing, let me emphasize that NASHIM activities

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Special thanks to

- People of Nagasaki Prefecture, the taxpayers, whose hard work makes NASHIM activities possible
- Nagasaki Prefecture and NASHIM management members for efficient functioning
- Nagasaki Medical Association members and supporters
- Hospitals in Nagasaki city for their kind cooperation
- Nagasaki University professors, doctors and researchers for generous sharing their knowledge, medical experience and scientific skills with NASHIM trainees

Congratulations on the 30th Anniversary of NASHIM and cordial wishes of sustainable work and further development and achievements!

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Finally, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to

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