

The situation of Dark Tourism in Japan and Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

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Abstract—New concept of travel theory called “Dark Tourism” has not interested Japanese people until recently. However, big wave has come these days. Especially, great east Japan earthquake and accident about Fukushima nuclear power plant makes us rethink about the situation of civilization from the bottom level. This paper will discuss the possibility of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in terms of dark tourism.

Keywords—Dark Tourism, Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, the Great east Japan earthquake.

I. INTRODUCTION

WHAT is the concept of “dark tourism”? Dark Tourism means travelling the traces which have tragedy like war, natural disaster and so on. This type of tourism was suggested on 1996 and the concept of this tourism became spread.

On the early stage of this research, many papers discuss Nazi, and recently, this research area is becoming wider and wider. Concretely speaking, because of 9.11, Indian ocean Tsunami, etc., new type of tourism called dark tourism is getting popular.

II. THE PROCESS OF ACCEPTANCE OF DARK TOURISM IN JAPAN

In Japan, Dr. Funk Carloline introduced “Dark Tourism” to Japanese people for the first time in 2008. Her paper mainly dealt with atomic dome in Hiroshima, and it did not give many effects on Japanese society because the great east Japan earthquake had not happen at that time. The atmosphere was greatly changed in this one year.

III. THE GREAT CHANGE IN JAPAN

The great east Japan earthquake caused not only big tsunami but also accident about Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Hazard of Fukushima Atomic Plant contains a lot of meanings. One of them is the limit of science civilization, discrimination for atomic victims, etc. In this sense, Fukushima has different meaning from other impacted areas by tsunami. Therefore, in terms of dark tourism, Fukushima has other meanings.

Though dark tourism did not spread so much in Japan, the situation greatly changed in the summer of 2013. Famous

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Japanese philosopher, Hiroki Azuma, suggested plan which called “Fukuichi Kanko Project”. He proposed that he would like to make Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and near areas tourism spot after 25 years have passed since hazard of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. As preparation of Fukushima project, he and his friends went to Chernobyl for research. The report of Chernobyl was got together into a book as “Chernobyl Dark Tourism Guide”. This book was widely accepted by many young people. As a result, the concept of dark tourism spread rapidly, and the word of “Dark Tourism” is often taken up on mass media like TV, news papers and so on.

IV. FUTURE SCENE

From the ancient, Japan has experienced a lot of natural disasters. Therefore, Japan is suitable for dark tourism. Accident of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station added the image of radioactive disaster to Japan besides natural disasters. On the other hand, to prepare Tokyo Olympic games, appeal of safety in Fukushima is needed. For this purpose, it should be recognized that tourism is one of the best way for disclosure, and the importance of dark tourism which has succeeded to dark side of human beings should be appreciated. Moreover, these days, it is sad that younger people would not like to enjoy tourism in Japan. However, dark tourism is the new way to help young people to enjoy journey. Unless the method is not incorrect, more and more young people will tend to go travelling on the concept of dark tourism.

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