Presentation Title : **Trends in drinking-water quality issues in Japan**

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Abstract :

Prevalence of water supply is as high as 97% and safe drinking water is now available all over Japan. Strong efforts have been made to improve water quality and now we successfully afford high level of water quality. While the compliance ratio is almost 100% in accordance with the water quality standard, water quality issues draw very high attention.

We had two big water quality accidents in 2011 and 2012. On 11th March in 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred and caused nearly 20,000 deaths or missing. Water supply systems were also extensively damaged by the earthquake and Tsunami. More than 2.2 million houses were suffered from water suspension mainly by water pipe damages. In addition, the nuclear power plant accidents made the large amounts of radionuclides released into environment. Radioactive iodine and cesium were detected in drinking water in Fukushima and ten neighboring prefectures including Tokyo. In 2012, formaldehyde precursor contamination in the Tone river made high concentration of formaldehyde in drinking water and finally brought water suspension for 870 thousand people. Since two thirds of water supplies in Japan introduce surface water, source water quality accidents are ubiquitous and common. Monitoring, control of effluents, watershed management and introduction of advanced water treatment are important measures in water supply. Recent water quality issues and emergency response will be described in the presentation.

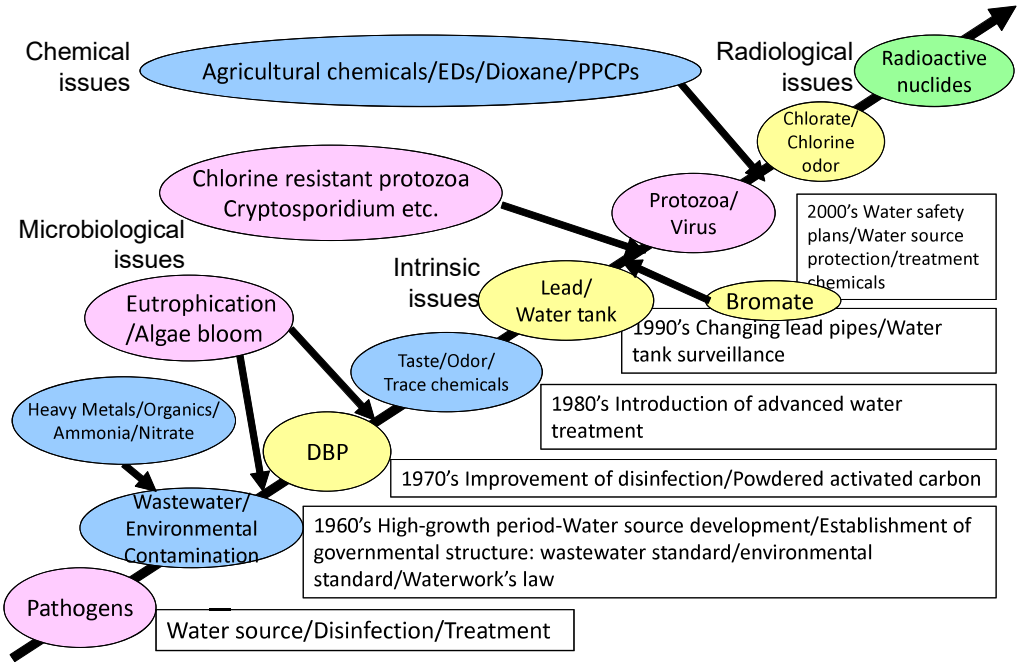

Fig. Trends in Drinking-water Quality Issues in Japan