

10 Negotiation against Chisso for compensation

【How did the patients negotiate against Chisso to get sufficient compensation?】

In 1968 the government finally announced that Minamata disease was caused by methyl mercury in the waste water from Chisso plant, twelve years after the initial outbreak.

After the announcement of the government, the patients and their families started to negotiate against Chisso for compensation, but it was not easy to make rapid progress on negotiation. Then they filed lawsuit against Chisso in the Kumamoto District Court in 1969.

In 1973 they won a suit.(Minamata disease first lawsuit)

The Japanese law provides that one who polluted must pay for compensation. So Chisso have to compensate for the certified patients sufficiently.

However there had been long fights against Chisso, Japanese government and prefectural government directly for compensation and certification by the uncertified patients.