

12 *Solution by the government and relief of victims*

【How the negotiation for compensation went on which uncertified patients had kept on having for long time?】

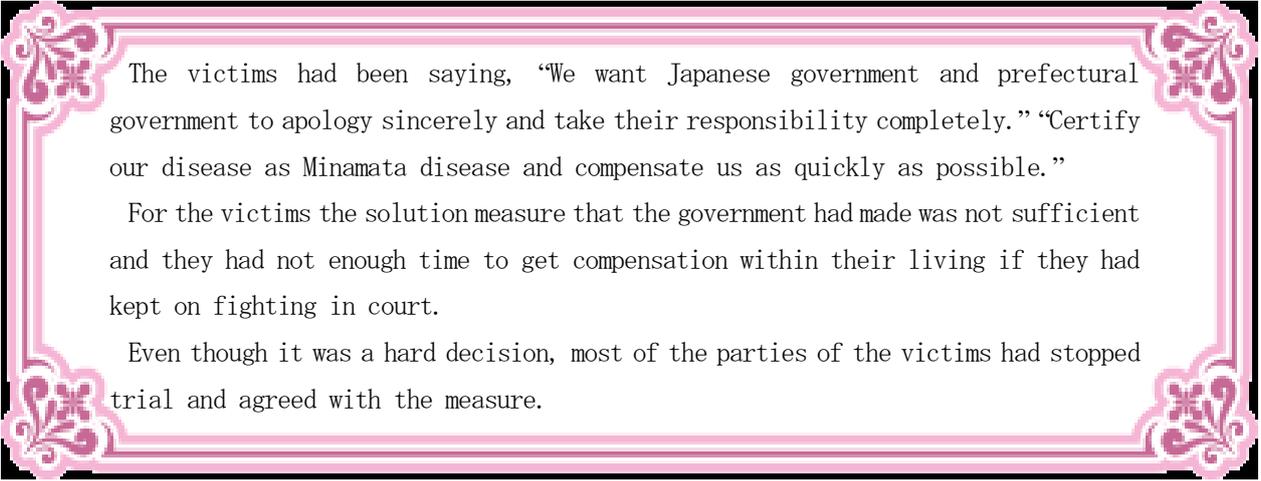
Many years have passed and many victims who had appealed patients have gotten old, and died since the Minamata disease had broken out.

So the court proposed to open negotiations with Chisso and government in stead of long trial.

There appeared many victims who wanted relief before they die. And in 1995, after the people concerned kept on having a negotiation, the Japanese government made measures for solution.

After the agreement of the negotiation Japanese government assists the medical bill of the uncertified patient who had lived in the areas where and when Minamata disease had broken out, and eaten many fishes from Minamata Bay and surrounding sea, and have numbness in their limbs. And Chisso also pays temporal consolation money 2600,000 yen.

The number of the relieved victims amounted to 11,540 including the victims who had died already. 【1997.8.1】



The victims had been saying, “We want Japanese government and prefectural government to apology sincerely and take their responsibility completely.” “Certify our disease as Minamata disease and compensate us as quickly as possible.”

For the victims the solution measure that the government had made was not sufficient and they had not enough time to get compensation within their living if they had kept on fighting in court.

Even though it was a hard decision, most of the parties of the victims had stopped trial and agreed with the measure.

Must of the parties of the victims agreed the measure and settled a lawsuit out of court. However the other victims who had moved from Minamata to Kansai (Osaka and the neighboring area) had kept on accusing in court the government of Japan and Kumamoto of their responsibility in court. They had insisted that damage by pollution had grown worse because of their failure to halt the discharge from the Chisso plant.

Finally Supreme Court had acknowledged that the government of Japan and Kumamoto prefecture had neglected to control the discharge from Chisso plant and their responsibility to relieve the victims in 15th Oct. 2004.

The victims want quick reactions and relieves of the governments according to the judgment of Supreme Court.