Survey of High School Students' Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy:

Changes in Interest in Nuclear Power and Awareness of the Clearance System

福井南高等学校
Fukuiminami High school

Kanon Sawa
Third-year student, Vice Leader,
Asai Seminar

School Profile









福井南高等学校
Fukuiminami High school

- A private high school offering a comprehensive course (with a part-time program)
- A small school with approximately 80 students per grade
- Three courses including General Studies, Commerce, and Welfare
- Surrounded by expansive rural landscapes
- Every Friday is dedicated to inquiry-based learning

There are 17 seminar groups active in the 2026 Academic Year (AY)

Major themes include “regional revitalization,” “breast milk banks,” “support for children with intractable diseases,” and “wildlife.”

About the Seminar



- Since AY2021, starting with the back-end (geological disposal) of nuclear power generation, the seminar aims to solve issues by connecting “nuclear power,” “social, regional and local problems,” and “students’ own themes.”
- The seminar comprises 3 third-year students, 4 second-year students, 1 first-year student, 6 research associates (former seminar members), and 1 advisor.
- The main research themes are:

  “Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy” and

  “Recycling activities for clearance resources.”



Kanon Sawa

Originally from Tsuruga City, Fukui Prefecture.
After entering high school, joined the Asai Seminar, after participating in “Joshikai,” a STEM event for girls organized by the OECD/NEA. Currently serves as the fifth Deputy Seminar Leader, with a role that involves consolidating members' opinions and fostering good interpersonal relationships.



Ako Shimozono

Originally from Sakai City, Fukui Prefecture. Involved in the “Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy” of AY2023 and AY2024. Visited Sweden while in high school and has an interest in geological disposal. Enrolled in the Faculty of Sociology, seeking to deepen her knowledge from an international perspective. The third Deputy Leader of the Asai Seminar. Also involved in clearance material recycling activities at the affiliated senior high school. I am a second-year student at Kwansei Gakuin University.



Yuno Mori

Originally from Sabae City, Fukui Prefecture. Since enrolling in Fukuiminami High School, has been involved in the “Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy” and initiatives to promote understanding of the clearance system. Served as the lead editor for the “2023 Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy.”
The second Leader of the Asai Seminar. Since entering university, continues to study and engage in practical activities related to the back-end of nuclear power generation. I am a third-year student at Keio University.

Details of the “Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy”

AY2021



Areas surveyed
Fukui n=1807

AY2022



Areas surveyed
Tokyo n=161
Fukui n=1882

AY2023



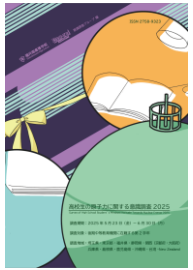
Areas surveyed
Tokyo n=813
Fukui n=2406
Kyoto n=138
Hyogo n=1561
Okinawa n=488
Alacant n=57

AY2024



Areas surveyed
Saitama n=1396
Tokyo n=1640
Fukui n=1992
Kyoto n=1005
Hyogo n=822
Shimane n=538
Kagoshima n=2209
Okinawa n=1356
New Zealand n=42

AY2025



Areas surveyed
Saitama n=1771
Tokyo n=297
Fukui n=1354
Shizuoka n=1764
Kyoto/Osaka n=113
Hyogo n=1726
Shimane n=337
Kagoshima n=1244
Okinawa n=703
Taiwan n=19
New Zealand n=163

AY2026



Areas surveyed
Aomori n=993
Saitama n=1114
Tokyo n=Approx. 600
Fukui n=1584
Gifu n=747
Shizuoka n=561
Kyoto n=282
Osaka n=412
Hyogo n=2083
Nara n=491
Wakayama n=502
Shimane n=405
Ehime n=704
Saga n=585
Nagasaki n=718
Kagoshima n=952
Okinawa n=649
Taiwan n=361
New Zealand n=77

Today’s Topics

- Details of the “Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy”
- Introduction of preliminary results from the AY2026 survey (selected excerpts)
- Comparison with previous years and analysis

“2026 Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy”



Areas surveyed and response percentages

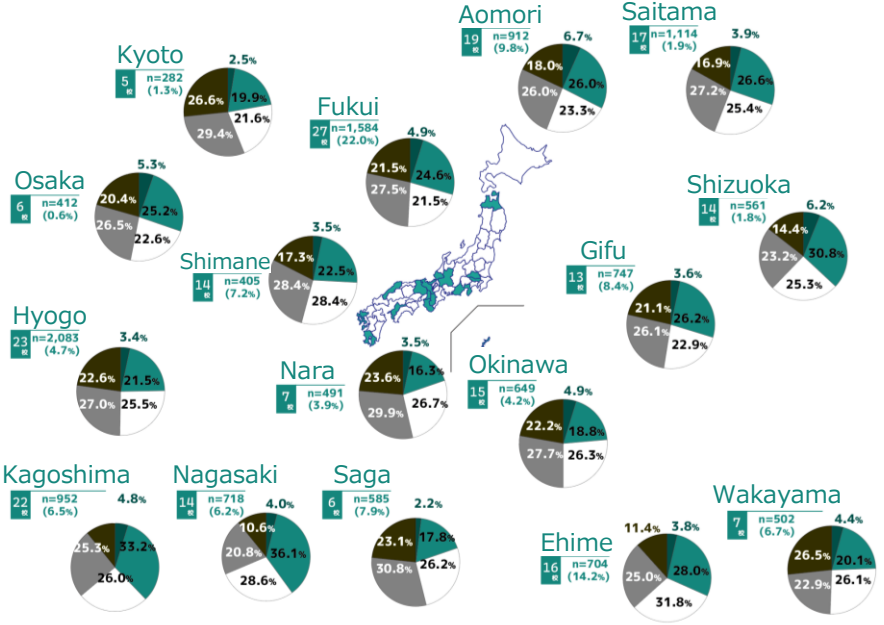
Aomori n＝993 (10.7%)
Saitama n=1114 (1.9%)
Tokyo n=Approx. 600 (---%)
Fukui n=1584 (22.0%)
Gifu n＝747 (4.4%)
Shizuoka n=561 (1.8%)
Kyoto n＝282 (1.3%)
Osaka n=412 (0.6%)
Hyogo n=2083 (4.7%)
Nara n＝491 (3.9%)
Wakayama n=502 (6.7%)

Shimane n=405 (7.2%)
Ehime n=704 (6.8%)
Saga n=585 (7.9%)
Nagasaki n=718 (6.2%)
Kagoshima n=952 (6.5%)
Okinawa n=649 (4.2%)
Taiwan n＝361 (---%)
New Zealand n＝77 (---%)

The response rate among the target population in the surveyed areas* was 2.9%, which is generally consistent with figures from previous years.

*Excluding Taiwan and New Zealand

Results revealed by the “2026 Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy”



▶ High level of interest in Shizuoka Prefecture

- A region with high emergency-preparedness awareness regarding events such as the Nankai Trough earthquake
- Media coverage related to Chubu Electric Power’s Hamaoka Nuclear Power Station

▶ Few indifferent individuals in Nagasaki Prefecture

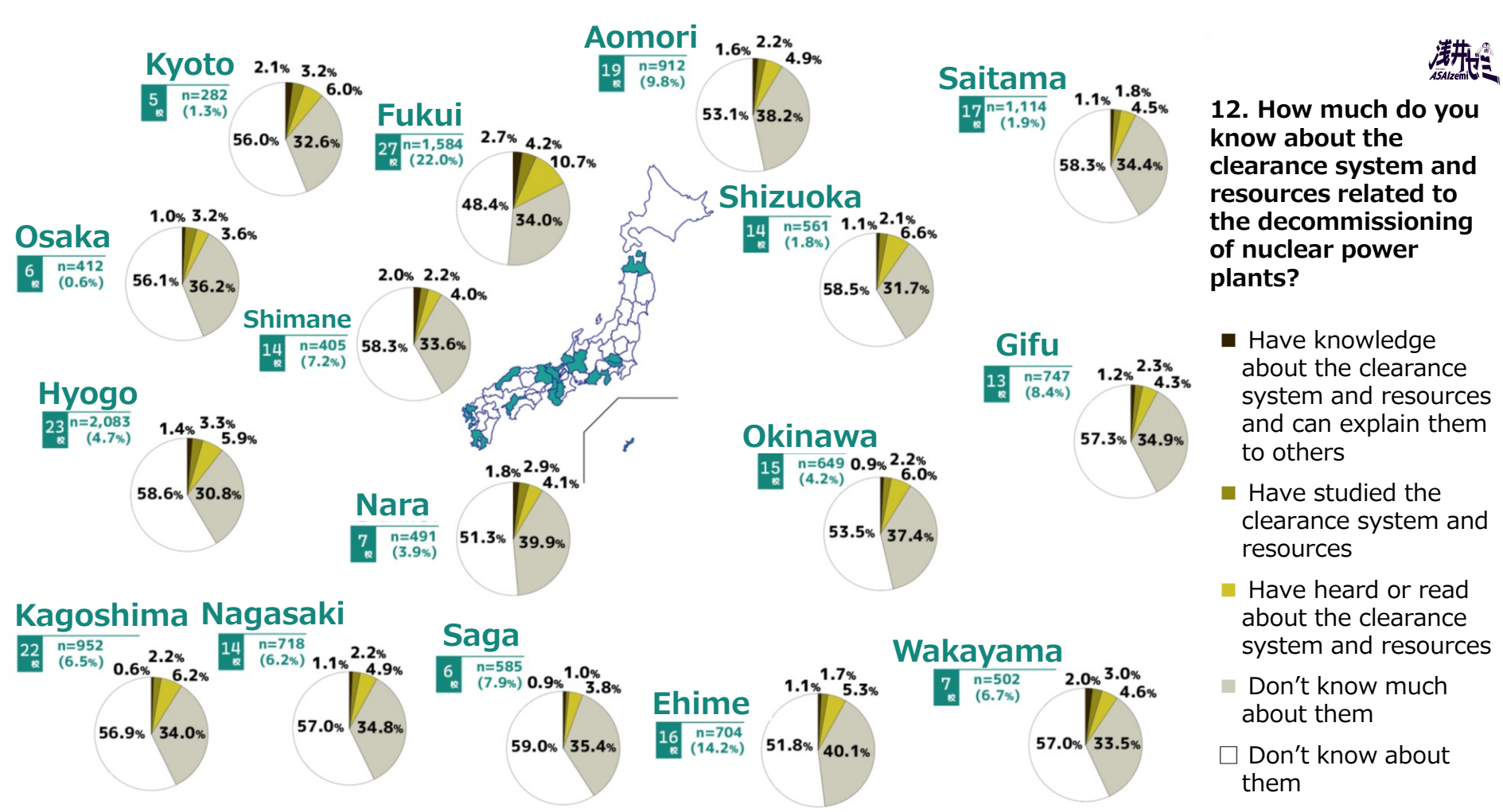
- High level of awareness attributable to thorough peace education
- Atomic bomb = radiation = scary = nuclear power?

4. To what extent are you interested in nuclear power generation?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Neither interested nor uninterested
- Not very interested
- Not interested



Clearance-metal streetlights known as “Hana-Akari” are being installed at educational institutions across Nagasaki Prefecture. They are being used as radiation-related educational materials, as well as for teaching materials on recycling and SDGs.



12. How much do you know about the clearance system and resources related to the decommissioning of nuclear power plants?

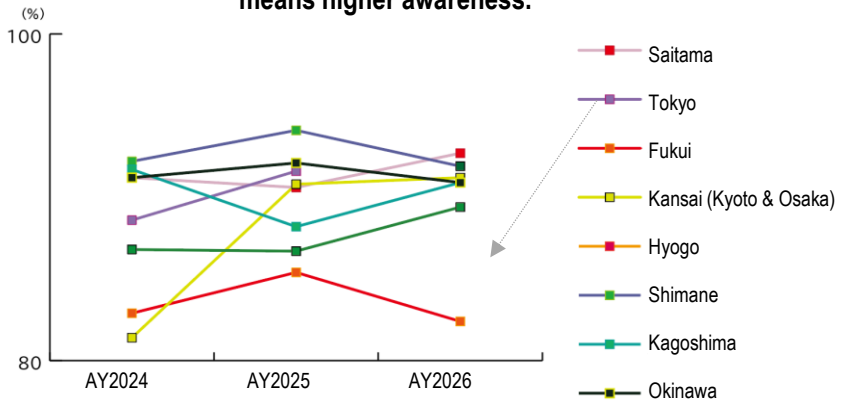
- ■ Have knowledge about the clearance system and resources and can explain them to others
- ■ Have studied the clearance system and resources
- ■ Have heard or read about the clearance system and resources
- ■ Don't know much about them
- □ Don't know about them

From the comparison with previous years based on the “Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy”

Q13. How much do you know about the clearance system and resources related to the decommissioning of nuclear power plants?

(“Don’t know” and “Don’t know much” are combined.)

A lower combined value of "Don't know" + "Don't know much" **means higher awareness.**



[N-value]	AY2024	AY2025	AY2026
Saitama	1,396 (2.3%)	1,171 (2.0%)	1,114 (1.9%)
Tokyo	1,640 (1.5%)	297 (0.6%)	(未分析)
Fukui	1,992 (26.9%)	1,354 (19%)	1,584 (22.0%)
Kansai (Kyoto & Osaka)	1,005 (4.5%)	113 (- - -)	694 (- - -)
Hyogo	882 (1.8%)	1,726 (3.9%)	2,083 (4.7%)
Shimane	538 (8.4%)	337 (5.9%)	405 (7.2%)
Kagoshima	2,209 (12.8%)	1,244 (8.3%)	952 (6.5%)
Okinawa	1,356 (8.9%)	703 (3.6%)	649 (4.2%)

▶ Remarkably high public awareness in Fukui Prefecture

- Not only due to individual school initiatives but also extensive media coverage
- Prefecture-wide initiatives working effectively

▶ Relationship with plant-hosting communities

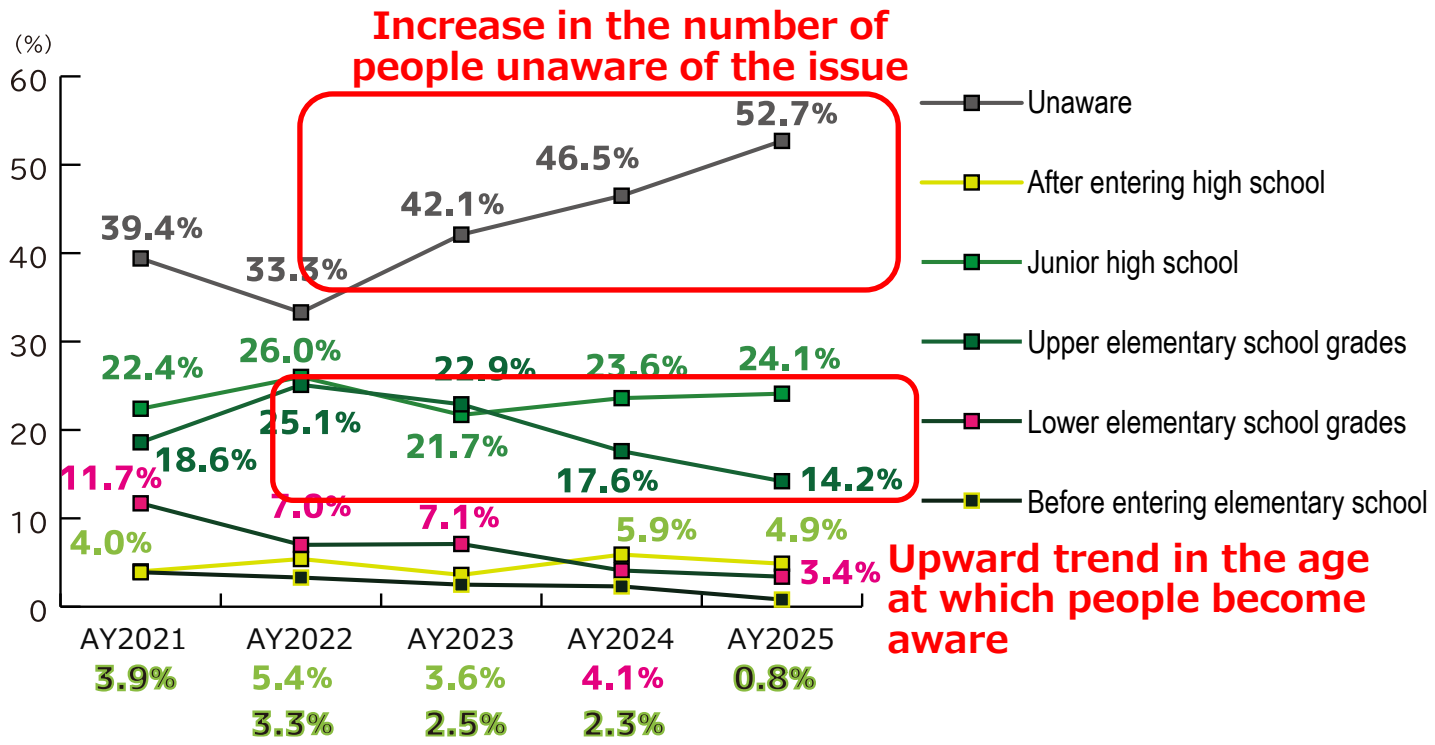
- No significant difference observed
- Possibly affected by the diversity of information sources or the characteristics of the responding schools

Results revealed from the “Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy”

Q5. Since when have you been interested in nuclear power generation?

Comparison with previous years in

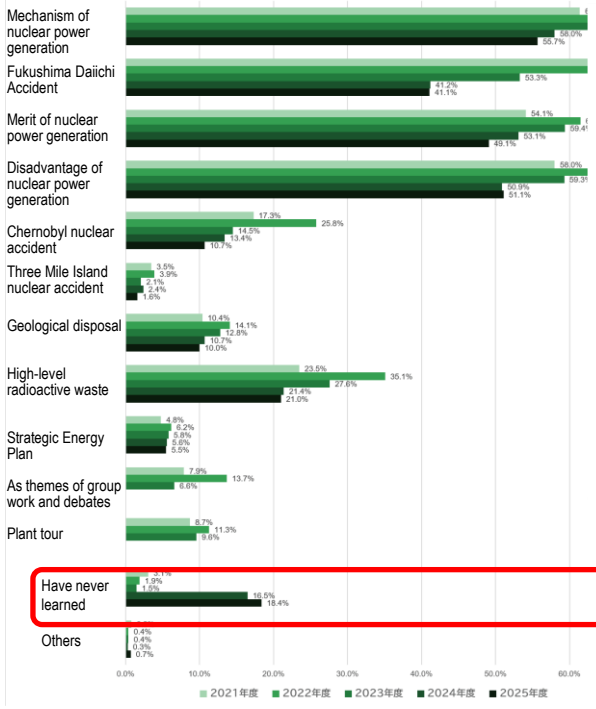
Fukui Pref.



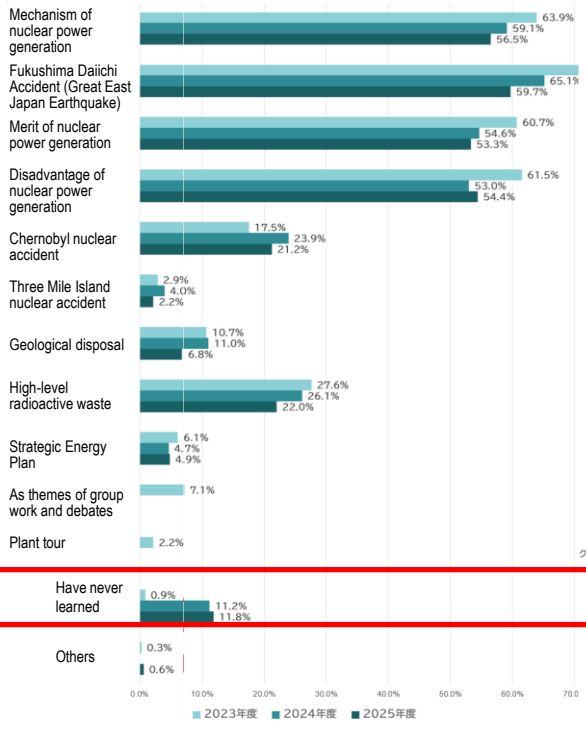
Results revealed from the “Survey of High School Students’ Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy”

Q9. Please select all items you have learned about nuclear power generation. (Multiple answers allowed.)

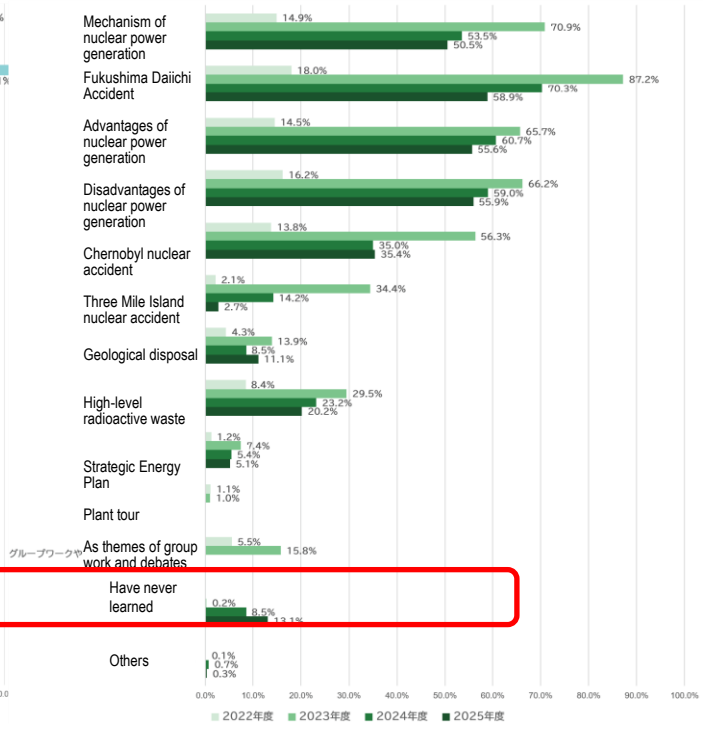
Comparison with previous years in Fukui Pref.



Comparison with previous years in Hyogo Pref.



Comparison with previous years in Tokyo



With each passing year, categories other than “Have never learned" show a downward trend.

Acknowledgements

Thank you for the valuable opportunity today.

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Please take a look.

Survey of High School Students' Mindset/Attitude Towards Nuclear Energy