Many buildings around F1 were left in collapse after the earthquake. Telephone poles were inclined and the roads sank everywhere (see figure 2; photographs). We felt that the Futaba area had changed to a town of death. Contamination by radioactive materials destroys local communities. Young generations, particularly young mothers with children, are very concerned about radioactivity; they do not readily return to their hometown even if the level of radioactivity has decreased.

Unfortunately, it will take a very long time until the EMS in the Pacific coastal area of Fukushima Prefecture completely recovers. We anticipate re-establishment of the EMS in Fukushima Prefecture and hope that all of the evacuated residents can eventually return to their home towns. Although extremely slow, there are signs of recovery; namely, advances in radioactivity decontamination measures, road improvements and the return of a few young people to their hometowns with the lift of the evacuation order. We believe that reporting of such experiences is a valuable contribution to many emergency doctors worldwide. Finally, we deeply appreciate all of the health workers who generously provided help.

Corrections

In the online May issue of this journal we published a set of 999 abstracts. In two of these abstracts 'P 002: Barriers and facilitators for people in bme groups accessing pre-hospital care and causes and consequences of any differences in delivery: systematic review and narrative synthesis' and 'P 023: What do users value about the emergency ambulance service?' the author Viet-Hai Phung was erroneously left off both of the author lists.