

Effective Risk Communication and Public Engagement Approaches

The Case of the Decontamination Process in Fukushima

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Introduction

- ❑ Ryoko Ando
- ❑ Born and grew up in Hiroshima until 18-year-old
- ❑ Graduated in Comparative Culture at Tsukuba University, Japan
- ❑ Moved to Fukushima in 2003 after the marriage with husband from Fukushima
- ❑ Established the citizen group 'Ethos in Fukushima' just after the accident
- ❑ Established the Non-Profit-Organization 'Fukushima Dialogue' in 2019



The activities I have been involved in

ICRP and Fukushima Dialogue

-Public open dialogue among stakeholders initiated by ICRP



An overview of the dialogue meetings initiated by ICRP in Japan after the Fukushima accident

J. Lochard T. Schneider, R. Ando, et al.

Radioprotection, 54(2) 87-101, May, 2019

Suetsugi Project

-Measurement and dialogue with residents



The post-nuclear accident co-expertise experience of the Suetsugi community in Fukushima Prefecture

J. Lochard, R. Ando, et al.

Radioprotection, 55(3) 225-235, Jul, 2020



How did the residents feel about decontamination?

Background

- Few knowledge about the radiation
- No common understanding of radiation risk
- Resentment and distrust of the Japanese Government and TEPCO
- Strong distrust of the science and experts
- Strong feeling to get things back as they were before the accident



What is decontamination?



- Know almost nothing at all about decontamination
- Believe that it is the final solution that will put things back as before the accident

T. Hanzawa, 2016 “Considerations and challenges in the ICRP dialogues”



One-way communication



- Just reading out a document prepared in advance

- Residents asks to what extent it is possible to reduce radiation by decontamination.

- Promise to reduce to **$0.23\mu\text{Sv/h}$**

8th October 2012, Suetsugi meeting house



During the process residents

- Came to know what the decontamination is like
- Received the explanation of the results
- Felt being treated appropriately



During the process authorities

- Refused the suggestion from the residents of more effective decontamination method

- Provoked a frustration feeling among the residents



Looking back, how did you feel about the decontamination?



10th July 2017, Suetsugi meeting house

- Satisfied with the decontamination work and reduction of the radiation level
- Distrust in the authorities

The result was good,
the process was bad.



Calling for equity



24th Nov. 2019, Evacuation area, Namie-machi, Futaba

"We've been waiting for ten years. Why don't you do for us as you have done for other communities?"

"You have polluted our property, so it is only right that you should clean it up and return it to us."

It is a matter of fairness,
equity and responsibility
i.e. of ethics



Inevitable Consequence of decontamination

-Huge amount of decontamination waste in the intermediate storage facility

-Promise to carry all waste out of Fukushima prefecture after 30 years



Ten years of decontamination project

Risk issue

Safety, standard, contamination level, measurement...

Procedural issue

Decision-making process,
stakeholder-involvement,

Ethical issue

Fairness,
Equity,
Responsibility..

S o c i a l p r o b l e m



About ethics



Residents inspecting the Suetsugi
Decontamination waste storage site of the village
4th sept. 2014

Emotional conflicts have a profound effect on our minds

Ethical confrontations rooted in emotional conflicts cannot be resolved easily

Need to consider ethical issues from the outset



How can we do effective risk communication?



26th Sep. 2012, Suetsugi meeting

- To build trust
- To involve stakeholders in decision-making processes
- To get a clear picture of the actual situation
- To share a common vision of the future

**Need of a transparent,
reliable and inclusive process**



The 23rd Fukushima Dialogue
Sharing about the issues of the ALPS-treated
water at Fukushima Daiichi NPP



The 19th Fukushima Dialogue, 2018 @Minami Soma

Photo Yu Miyai



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Sunday 28 November 2021

9:15 ~ 16:30 JST

1:15 ~ 8:30 CET

19:15 Saturday 27 ~ 2:30 Sunday 28 EST

With simultaneous interpretation

Online delivery using Zoom

(←QR code) <https://fukushima-dialogue.jp/zoom202111/>

* We will provide the recorded video of the whole meeting free of charge after on our web at:

<https://fukushima-dialogue.jp/>

In cooperation with:

Japan Health Physics Society (JHPS)

The Society for Risk Analysis (SRA), Japan

French Nuclear Protection Evaluation Centre (CEPN)

French Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety
(IRSN)

Fukushima Dialogue

Sharing about the issues of the ALPS-treated water at Fukushima Daiichi NPP

Sunday 28th November

<https://fukushima-dialogue.jp/en>

- Simultaneous interpretation
- Online participation available using Zoom
- Recorded-video will be available

