Participation of the population: a key feature of ICRP Publication 111

(22) ... It is the responsibility of the authorities (both national and local) to create the conditions and provide the means favouring the involvement and empowerment of the population. This must be done taking local social and economic living conditions into account to provide individuals with information, thus allowing them to understand and assess their personal situation and to maintain vigilance with the objective to improve their daily life and to protect themselves and their offspring for the future.
After the Fukushima accident, interaction between ICRP, Japanese RP experts and NPO Radiation Safety Forum Japan

Decision to organise a dialogue seminar in Fukushima between all interested parties

Aiming at:

- Transferring experience from communities affected by the Chernobyl accident
- Facilitating discussions between stakeholders
- Deeply understanding the challenges for improving the living conditions of the residents
- Contributing to improve future ICRP recommendations
Principles guiding the dialogue

- Invited participants
- Local and international observers
- Facilitation by ICRP members
- Use of common language
- Use of a dialogue technique allowing participants to express their personal views, listening to each other and summarizing the main lessons
- All sessions opened to media
Participants to the dialogue

- Local residents and professionals
- Representatives of villages and towns
- Representatives of the Prefecture
- National agencies
- NGOs, and other Japanese organisations
- Representatives of Belarusian, Norwegian, and French organisations and stakeholders with direct experience in managing long-term consequences of the Chernobyl accident
- Representatives of international agencies (notably NEA)
Locations of the dialogue seminars
Main topics of the dialogue seminars

- Challenges of local cities (Date, Minamisoma, Miyakoji, Iitate, Suetsugi, Futaba, Kawauchi, …)
- Education of children
- Food production and consumption
- Returning or not, staying or leaving
- Individual monitoring and role of measurements in regaining control
- Value of tradition and culture
The third Dialogue – July 2012
Improving the quality of food products
The fourteenth Dialogue: July 2016
Sharing experiences in Iitate village today
Main lessons learned (1)

- Confirmation of the characteristics of the Chernobyl post-accident situation:
  - Loss of control over everyday life
  - Apprehension about the future, particularly for children
  - Disintegration of family life and of the social and economic fabric
  - Threat on the autonomy and dignity of affected people
- However, through their testimonies and reflections, participants found the right words to better describe these human dimensions
- Participants developed gradually a rich narrative based on their experiences helping them to engage in the rehabilitation process
Main lessons learned (2)

- Reaffirmation of the **crucial role of individual measurements** (ambient dose rates, individual and external doses, food products):
  - for everyone to be able to know his/her individual exposure and not only average values and to make **informed decision**
  - for the community to talk about the situation and to identify solutions together **to improve the living conditions**

- Need to start measurements as soon as possible after the accident and to refine them as necessary with time in order:
  - to **characterize** the initial situation
  - to **follow the evolution** of the radiological situation and to adapt the protection strategy
  - to ensure the **long term vigilance**
Main lessons learned (3)

- Confirmation of the importance of establishing **places of dialogue** between experts and the affected population to develop the **practical radiological protection culture**
- Key role of experts in helping affected people to access this culture so that residents can regain their **autonomy**
- **Dose criteria rarely mentioned** by participants and no discussion about their rationality
- Concern of participants on the impact of the dose criteria on everyday life, in particular their **blocking and separating character**
- When people gain access to the practical radiological protection culture, dose criteria are used as **benchmarks for making decisions** and not as constraints to limit their actions
Main lessons learned (4)

- **Complementarity role** of the protective actions implemented by authorities and the affected people but also the difficulty to coordinate the two approaches (e.g. the decontamination actions)

- Important **role of communities** in the decision-making processes and need to develop a rehabilitation process:
  - **integrating** the different dimensions of daily life in the affected areas
  - **encouraging cooperation** mechanisms between stakeholders
  - taking into account the implications for **future generations**

- Real challenge in a **context of mistrust** vis-à-vis the authorities
Main lessons learned (5)

- Protection of children is a major concern but not without drawbacks: restrictions on outside activities, obesity, disruption of schooling, etc.

- Difficulty, as in Belarus, of putting in place mechanisms for cooperation between all the relevant actors (authorities, experts, professionals and the population) at local, regional and national level, as well as the dissemination of good practices between communities.

- Key role of the transmission of past experience (Chernobyl) and of national and international solidarity.

- Need to take into account the ethical aspects related to the involvement and the empowerment of the affected people.
The seventeenth Dialogue: July 2017
What do we need for the future?
Some conclusions from the 17th ICRP Dialogue - July 2017 (1)

**Difficulties to envisage what will be the future**

- Decision to come back to homeland or not is still at stake
- "The future is still in the fog"
- Difficulties to clean and maintain houses in evacuated areas
- Difficulties for young generations to take decision to live in affected areas
- Difficulties to maintain relationships in evacuated communities
Some conclusions from the 17\textsuperscript{th} ICRP Dialogue - July 2017 (2)

**Expected future**

- Becoming actors instead of victims
- Happy future: this is the expected direction
- Continuing efforts to produce clean food products from Fukushima Prefecture and being recognized as good quality
- Being able to come back to homeland
- Being connected and maintaining the traditional performance and culture (festivals, dance…)
- Being treated fairly and with equity
For more information on the ICRP dialogue

ethos-fukushima.blogspot.jp

ICRP and Fukushima
http://new.icrp.org/page.asp?id=188
Thank you for your attention