

Ethics, risk communication and practical radiological culture in post-nuclear accident situations: the role of experts in empowering affected people

Working Seminar

organized by Atomic Bomb Disease Institute (ABDI), Nagasaki, Japan and Nuclear Evaluation Protection Centre (CEPN), Fontenay-aux-Roses, France

Date: 28-29 November 2017

Venue: Bauduin Lecture Hall (Ryojun Auditorium 2F)

Nagasaki University School of Medicine

1-12-4 Sakamoto, Nagasaki 8528523, Japan

Background

The experience gained in the territories affected by the Chernobyl accident in Belarus and Fukushima in Japan has shown that medical and radiological protection experts were not adequately prepared to cope with the complexity of the consequences of these accidents and particularly to engage themselves with the affected population. This verdict emerged clearly in the accidental phase but remains valid today at a time when the residents of the contaminated territories have to make difficult choices for themselves and their families about the future. In such context, the contributions of experts in the medical and radiological protection fields are not easy to structure and often clash with the expectations of the local populations which are difficult to satisfy. The ethical positioning of experts in this context is paramount.

Beyond the unavoidable scientific and technical dimensions, experts have to face the numerous concerns and interrogations of the people due to the presence of radioactivity in their daily environment, which remain without answers despite the flow of information. They are also confronted to the disintegration of the family life as well as of the social and economic fabric. Several local experiences in Fukushima, as earlier in Chernobyl, have demonstrated the importance for experts to dialogue with the affected communities in order to better understand their concerns and expectations, to cooperate with them to evaluate the local radiological situations and finally to empower them in order to face the situation and make informed decisions. The engagement from experts together with local authorities and leaders at the service of the residents has proved to be an effective approach to develop the indispensable practical radiation protection culture for affected people to regain confidence and control on their daily life.

The objective of the Seminar will be for the participating experts, professionals and local leaders to share their current experiences on the difficulties and challenges they faced in engaging with the affected communities after the Fukushima accident. In this perspective, particular emphasis will be placed on better identifying and understanding the ethical issues associated with stakeholder involvement, risk communication and the development of the practical radiological protection culture in the recovery phase after a nuclear accident.

What ethical position to adopt to ensure the fairness of the engagement process? How to avoid the pitfalls of risk communication? What are the conditions and means for developing a shared representation of the radiological situation between experts and the affected citizens? How to put this co-expertise process at the service of improving the living conditions of the affected communities? How to disseminate and also ensure the sustainability of good practices? These are the questions to be discussed during the Seminar in order to improve the preparedness of experts and professionals in case of future nuclear accident.

Agenda

Tuesday 28 November 2017

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| 1400-1420 | Introductory remarks |
| 1420-1440 | Noboru Takamura (Nagasaki University) |
| 1440-1500 | Kenji Kamiya (Hiroshima University) |
| 1500-1520 | Masayuki Fukusaku (Higashi-Nihon International University) |
| 1520-1540 | Shinji Maeda (ALPINE) |
| 1540-1600 | Coffee break |
| 1600-1620 | Juichi Ide (Kawauchi village) |
| 1620-1640 | Masaharu Maeda (Fukushima Medical University) |
| 1640-1700 | Thierry Schneider (CEPN) |
| 1700-1800 | Discussion |

Wednesday 29 November 2017

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| 1000-1300 | Working group discussions |
| 1300-1400 | Lunch |
| 1400-1500 | Report of Working Groups |
| 1500-1600 | General discussions and summary |

Participants list

1. Jacques Lochard (Nagasaki University)
2. Shunichi Yamashita (Nagasaki University)
3. Noboru Takamura (Nagasaki University)
4. Ohtsura Niwa (RERF)
5. Masaharu Maeda (FMU)
6. Elisabeth Cardis (Barcelona Institute for Global Health)
7. Toshiaki Honma (NRA)
8. Thierry Schneider (CEPN)
9. Mélanie Maître (CEPN)
10. Makoto Miyazaki (FMU)
11. Makiko Orita (Nagasaki University)
12. Yoshiko Fukushima (Nagasaki University)
13. Kenji Kamiya (Hiroshima University)
14. Yujiro Kuroda (FMU)
15. Masayuki Fukusako (Higashi-Nihon International University)
16. Ryoko Ando (Ethos)
17. Juichi Ide (Kawauchi Village)
18. Shinjiro Maeda (ALPINE)
19. Jean-François Lecomte (IRSN)
20. Christopher Clement (ICRP)
21. Haruyuki Ogino (ICRP)
22. Sergey Shinkarev (FMBA, Russia)
23. Edward Lazo (OECD)