

Conclusion from dialogue with the local residents 1

(View of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP))

- Participants recognized the importance of developing radiation protection culture to allow inhabitants to understand and evaluate the information on the consequences of the accident and to take informed actions for reducing radiological exposure.
- They recognized the need for a more detailed characterization of the radiological situation to allow people to know where, when and how they are exposed.
- They underlined their concern about the future demographic pattern due to an acceleration in the younger generations leaving the prefecture and abandoning farming activities.
- They discussed with great emotion the issue of discrimination of people in the affected areas, especially for those of pre-marital age to marry and have children.
- The preservation of the traditional and popular activity of gathering wild vegetables (sansai) was identified as culturally important in maintaining the cohesion of the Fukushima community.

Source: Prepared based on Lochard, J (2012), the material for the 27th symposium of the Nuclear Safety Research Association

Providing useful information for helping affected people to solve or deal with real issues has been proven to be an effective means for offering psychological support.

In the event of a nuclear disaster, expert knowledge is required to understand the possible effects of radiation and to come up with measures for radiological protection.

After the Chernobyl NPS Accident, as well as after the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)'s Fukushima Daiichi NPS Accident, experts and local residents had dialogues. If affected people are able to solve radiation issues by themselves with experts' support, that is considered quite effective in reducing their psychological stress.

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