

## 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.

## Introduction (2)

- 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

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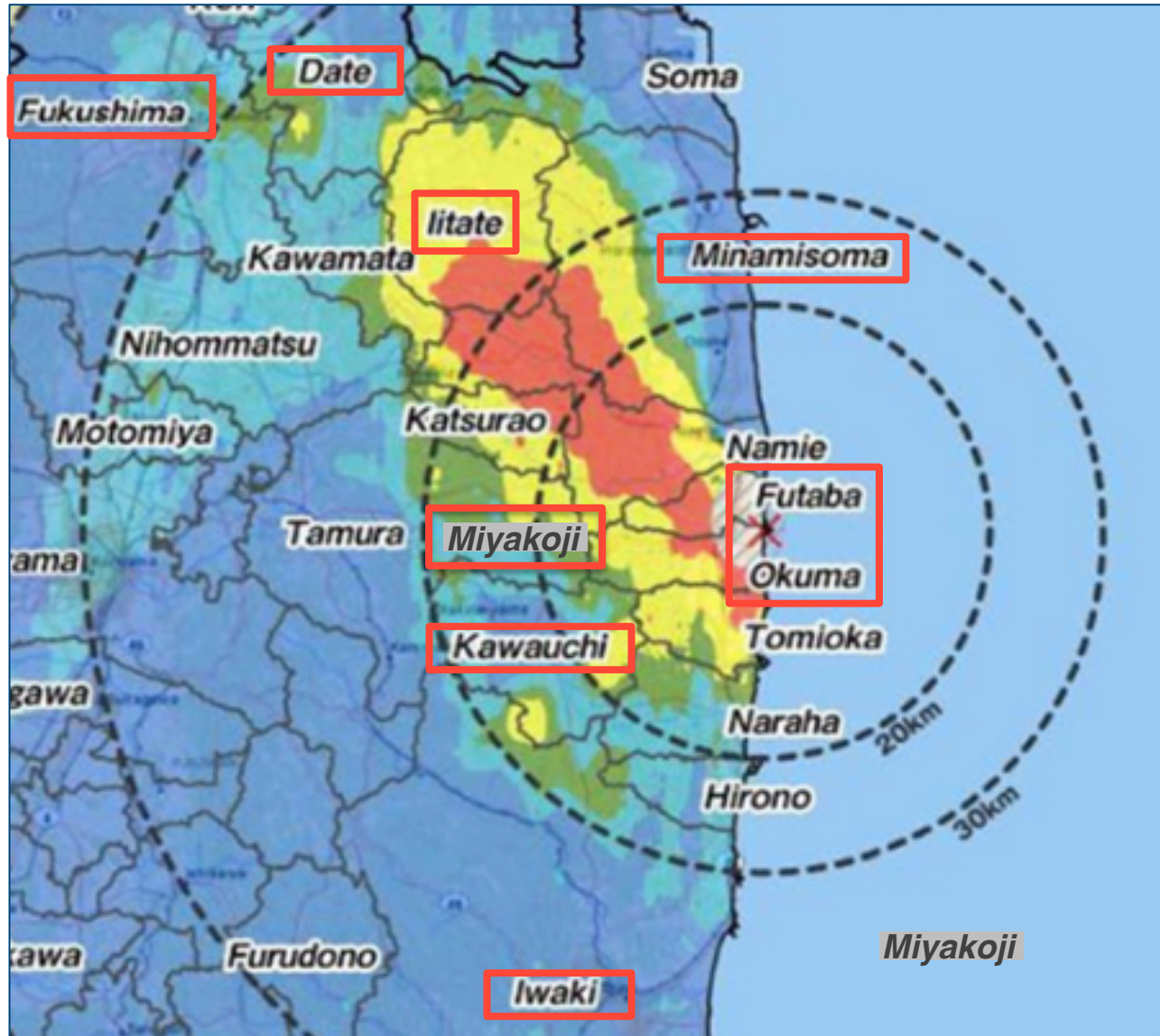
- Invited participants
- Local and international observers
- Facilitation by ICRP members
- Use of common language
- Use of a dialogue technique allowing participants to express their personal views, listening to each other and summarizing the main lessons
- All sessions opened to media
- 17 Dialogue seminars organised from Nov 2011 to July 2017 (next Dialogue: 25-26 November 2017)

# Participants to the dialogue

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- 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

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- 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 litate 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 of 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 17<sup>th</sup> ICRP Dialogue - July 2017 (1)

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## *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<sup>th</sup> 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 IN FUKUSHIMA

原子力災害後の福島で暮らすということ。それでも、ここでの暮らしは素晴らしく、よりよい未来を手渡す事ができるということ。自分たち自身で、測り、知り、考え、私とあなたの共通の言葉を探すことを、いわきで小さく小さく続けています。twitter: @ando\_ryoko mail: ethos.fukushima@gmail.com

ホーム 活動 Fukushima Dialogue ICRP Dialogue

[ethos-fukushima.blogspot.jp](http://ethos-fukushima.blogspot.jp)

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***Thank you for your attention***