

WHAT WE LEARNED ON RESILIENCE FROM FDNPP ACCIDENT? OR WHY IRSN SUPPORTS FUKUSHIMA DIALOGUES?

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What is IRSN (French Institute for Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety)?

- National expert for nuclear and radiological risk assessment
- As such, IRSN would be a key player in emergency and recovery situations in case a nuclear accident occurs in France or in a neighboring countries.
- IRSN will provide national authorities with recommendations for protecting populations, carry out measurements (environment and persons) and inform the public.
- The previous point is theoretical. What would happen in the event of a real accident?

Why IRSN participates and supports the Fukushima Dialogues?

- Answer the previous question «What would happen if a real accident occurred ?»
- Very easy to lose trust but very difficult to regain it
- To learn and, as experts, « change our glasses »
- Stakeholder involvement is the solution and not the problem
- Protecting/Involving the population : to work with and not to work for
- Anticipation. But we will never be ready...

Why IRSN continues to participate and support the Fukushima Dialogues?

- Recovery process is a long term issue (like running a marathon whose end is unknown....)
- Usual human behavior :
 - forgetting or hiding bad events
 - minimize consequences
- Successive Dialogues have shown that the accident has deeply affected Fukushima prefecture (economy, demography, health, culture, social interactions, environment,...)
- But it also demonstrated the capacity of resilience of the affected populations (to move from the initial phase of sideration to the re-construction phase – « thinking and building together for the future »)

From Fukushima accident to climatic change and geopolitical issues

- Nuclear energy : Drastic change at the international level between post-Fukushima phase and the years 2020!
- Climate changes and war in Ukraine!
- New builds, SMRs/AMRs, extension of life of present reactors,...
- When an industry is booming, there's often a tendency to forget the risks it presents (even if every effort is made to minimize the probability of their occurrence) and the consequences of an accident (or minimize them)

CONCLUSION

- IRSN learned a lot from participating in the Fukushima Dialogues
- We are convinced that involving affected populations as soon as possible after an accident is a key element in the process of managing a recovery situation.
- There's no going back to normal after a nuclear accident. All social and economic components are disrupted over a very long period.
- In the current context (nuclear revival in relation with climate change issues and geopolitical tensions/wars), it is difficult to draw the attention of decision-makers on these consequences.
- All the above points are motivating factors for IRSN to contribute to the work carried out as part of Fukushima Dialogues.