



The 26th Fukushima Dialogue organized by Fukushima Dialogue
12 and 13 October 2024

Decommissioning, Waste Management of FDNPP, and the Future of the Region

Summary by Rapporteur, Ms Win Thu Zar

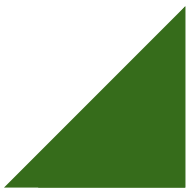


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“What do you think are the current challenges regarding the relationship between the decommissioning and waste management of Fukushima Daiichi and the local community? How do you foresee the situation evolving in the future?”

Participants:

- *Sanroku Ikenoue (Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Support Organization)*
- *Yuri Imaizumi (J.F.Overling University student)*
- *Akiko Umehara (Aruto702, Artist Walking Alongside the Community)*
- *Kanako Endo (Resident in Tomioka)*
- *Ryo Endo (Graduate School of Engineering, Tohoku University master student)*
- *Cheng Di (Graduate School of Waseda University master student)*
- *Tamami Henmi (Council Member, Tomioka Town)*
- *Fabien Hubert (French National Radioactive Waste Management Agency) – Online*
- *Yoshiharu Monma (30-Year Landowners' Association for the Interim Storage Facility)*
- *Tetsuo Yasutaka (AIST)*
- *Tomoyuki Matsueda (Futaba Administrative Scrivener Office)*



**6
Observers**

1. Trust and Communication

- **Trust is a critical issue** in the relationship between those in charge of the decommissioning and the local community. The dialogue emphasizes the importance of establishing opportunities for local communities to participate more actively and to create opportunities for local residents to express their concerns.
- Clear and simple language that is easy to understand is important when communicating with the local community. It helps improve communication and **build trust**. Combining technical content with other forms of sharing, such as art, could make communication more effective

2. Community Involvement and Transparency

- The decision-making processes would be improved by greater participation from the local community, especially in matters related to decommissioning and waste management. Involving those who are familiar with the region and its history is crucial for making progress.
- **Transparency** in sharing information, especially in relation to final disposal sites and waste levels, will help **to foster trust** between the community and government authorities.

3. Challenges in Decommissioning

- **Decommissioning is a long-term process** that will take decades to complete. It is a significant issue that a clear decision has not been made about the future of both high- and low-level radioactive waste, for the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. In addition, The complexity of the situation is compounded by the lack of information about how much waste will be generated and where it will be stored.
- Some pointed out that the voices of women and younger generations may be underrepresented **in decision-making processes** related to decontamination and decommissioning. There is a need for more diverse perspectives in decision-making to ensure fair and inclusive outcomes.

4. Social and Psychological Barriers

- **Many residents would not return** to their homes, even though the radiological situation is being improved.
- The **concern** on the waste management and the decommissioning process as well the deficit of important **infrastructures**, such as schools and hospitals, continue to be factors hindering families from returning.
- Addressing emotional and societal concerns is essential for rebuilding trust and making a compromise.

5. Technological and Strategic Advancements

- Advances in **recycling and volume reduction of decontaminated soil** are raising new challenges and concerns. Demonstration projects, such as those in Iitate village, raise controversial issues: The plan to **recycle decontaminated soil in a safe and controlled manner**, is a key focus area moving forward for the authorities, but **in most cases, there is no consensus** to reuse decontaminated soil in local communities.

6. Long-Term Vision and Protecting Future Generations

- **Reducing** the burden of waste management for **future generations** is a priority. Strategies should be developed to ensure that safe management option will be transferred to the next generation.
- There is a need to **make clear the roles of various experts, authorities, as well as local communities in addition to the actual goal for ‘decommissioning’** to ensure the safety and smooth coordination in the decommissioning and waste management processes and waste .

7. The importance of Social Dialogue

- Building social dialogue for final disposal sites and other recycling initiatives remains a significant challenge. Ensuring fairness in how decisions about safety are prepared and shared is critical to securing long-term trust from the local community.
- Developing mechanisms to help people to contribute more effectively to dialogues related to the future of Fukushima is important, particularly for those who are not used to speak in public to express their concerns and their intimate convictions.

Observers comments:

- **Gaining the trust of local communities**
- **Overcoming previous mistakes and the lack of information**
- **Recognizing and communicating uncertainty**
- **Addressing anxiety and mental health concerns** caused by the accident, decommissioning, and waste management
- **Protection of the environment**
- **Optimizing strategy**
- **Long-term impact:** Radioactive materials from TEPCO Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP will remain in the environment, affecting both local and wider regions.
- **Distrust in government:** Significant distrust exists regarding the Ministry of the Environment's handling of decontaminated soil reuse, such as much increasing the norm and proceeding by Ministerial ordinance changes instead of legislative amendments to address issues like the risk of flooding.
- **Opposition to soil reuse:** There are strong concerns about the spread of radioactivity through decontaminated soil reuse projects.
- **Need for global scrutiny:** International organizations (such as the IAEA) endorsing these projects raise concerns about similar practices spreading to other countries. There is a serious call for increased global attention.
- **How to preserve the memory of what happened in Fukushima?**
- **Moving forward:** How should communication and dialogue be conducted? How should the waste be disposed of? What approach should be taken?
- **Recognizing the importance of dialogue**
- **Ensuring access to reliable information:** It has been expressed persistently that there should be clear references to help determine whether information provided by government is accurate or not.



This figure captures the most frequently used words during the Dialogue, with the larger size words being the more pronounced. It emphasizes the fact that the long term dimension of the decommissioning and waste management processes are raising many concerns among local communities with the key role of trust in the decision making processes and the communication with authorities and experts.

Quotations from the participants ' voices:

- 'I have no interest in this issue because I can't make any difference between what is important or not.'
- 'I want to engage with the community with the belief that trust cannot be built without respect for each individual's life.'
- 'We must be becoming proud of the decommissioning work'
- 'A dialogue was established in France, taking past mistakes into account. It also acknowledges the presence of uncertainty.'
- 'Only people can carry long-term projects forward.'

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This summary was reviewed by the secretariat based on the content prepared by the rapporteur during the dialogue, then distributed to all participants after the meeting, and received their approval.

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