Report of the first day:

*What is at stake?*

10th ICRP Dialogue

« The value of tradition and culture in Fukushima »

6-7 December 2014 – Date City
Traditional culture

• What is traditional culture and why it is important?
  – Sansai, cooking, share with neighbours and friends
  – Mountain vegetable = natural treasure
  – Seasonal events, festivals, harvests...
  – Music, dance, sociability
  – Involvement of children
  – But to be declining, even before the accident

• Tradition should be preserved
  – Even if it is changing
  – To be passed to young generation
  – Culture is not only of the past
Tradition and radiation

• Tradition is damaged by radiation
  – People dispersed
  – Natural resources contaminated
  – Decontamination almost impossible

• Tradition is a way to recover
  – Rediscovering of traditional culture
  – Sharing with other countries is an opportunity
  – Culture is a source of energy, a way to meet again, to do something together
  – New culture: observation, measurement, café
  – Now low level of contamination
  – Most important is knowledge, self-appreciation
  – Prepare the future
Report of the second day:

How to move forward?

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« The value of tradition and culture in Fukushima »

6-7 December 2014 – Date City
Introduction

• A tendency of decline of traditions before the accident

• After the accident,
  – people express a need to come back to the origins of their communities
  – and value of the tradition as a foundation for the social life (connecting people)

• But the contamination is an obstacle
Festival as a way forward after the accident

• A foundation of the community
• Symbol of reconstruction of the region
• A way to forget (a little bit) the contamination
• An opportunity for children to come back
• A way to do something together (adults and children), to gather again and to connect generation
• Attractive for people from outside the Prefecture
• Drums, arts, music... a positive way for present and future life
Need to cope with contamination

- Parents reluctant to come or send their children due to contamination of the environment
  - Some festivals were cancelled
- Need to control or even change the route
- Need to clean areas
- Problem of teachers and administrative staff moving regularly (lack of continuity)
The traditional values

- The traditional values associated with the festivals and their link with revival of the region after the Fukushima accident:
  - beauty of the nature
  - prosperity (rich harvests)
  - Health
  - Dignity
  - Solidarity
  - Sharing
  - “Madei life”: Living with the neighbouring nature
Towards recovery

• Festivals and music as a mean for recreating the link of the community after the accident
  – a source of energy for bounding people.
  – as part of objective of life
• people are still proud of their region
• Still emotion but no more hopeless
• Proofs of solidarity with the festivals
• Evolution of the festivals to cope with the new situation (including contamination of environment)
Some challenges

• Need to teach and educate children in a healthy way
  – But how to do it in a contaminated environment?
• Need to connect the people in the new situation including evacuated people:
  – Tradition and cultural events could play a key role
• Need to keep the memory (as in Belarus with a museum for living memory)
Some words

• The accident has motivated some to pass traditions on to the young people
• Tradition and culture have the power to bring people together
• I look forward to a time when we can live without worrying
• Reviving tradition and culture is part of reconstruction