18th ICRP Dialogue

Situation in Yamakiya

Nov 25-26, 2017

Summary report – Day 2
Yamakiya before

• One district of Kawamata Town
  – 1,000 inhabitants, 330 households

• Geography
  – Granitic geology
  – Rainy climate, hot in summer, cold in winter
  – Beautiful landscape
  – Abukuma mountains, forests

• Activities
  – Agriculture (mainly)
  – Industry (steel, cars, polyester...)
  – Good life in Yamakiya
NPP accident March 2011

• Evacuation in March 2011
  – Disruption of social life and economic activities
  – Experience of temporary houses
  – Decontamination

• Lifting of evacuation order in March 2017
  – 270 inhabitants returned (25%), 50 households, 2/3 > 65 old

• Radiation context
  – Monitoring, concerns, rumours…

• On-going recovery process
On-going recovery: infrastructure

- Accessibility of the district: roads
- Cafeteria to welcome visitors, shops
- New medical clinic
  - Challenge to provide day to day care
- Schools: elementary + middle
- Firemen station
- Post-office reopened
On-going recovery: Agriculture

• Back to traditional activities – Family business
  – Oak silkmother
  – Black rice
  – Flowers: Dahlia, Eustorma; trade restarting
  – Mushrooms, tobacco...
  – Cows

• Quality improvement
  – Flower colours
  – Competitions (flowers)
  – Breed selection (silkmother)
  – Organic production
  – Yamakiya tofu

• Support
  – Agricultural development association
  – University

• Challenges
  – Preservation of the landscape (not utilised fields) and livestock
  – Lack of manpower
  – Common ownership
  – Irrigation (need to clean all the channels)
  – Selection of production to get income, mixed production
  – False rumours about contamination
On-going recovery: community life

• Aging population
  – Almost no children
  – How to attract young people?
• Get people self-independent
• Discrepancy between central and local views
• Diversity of points of view, communication
• Networking
• Time is important (friend or enemy?)
On-going recovery: networking

• Between local residents
  – Community association
  – Knowledge transmission between generations
  – Newsletter like in Iitate?

• With surrounding locations (common projects)
  – Similarities with Iitate, Futaba

• With outlanders
  – Volunteers, consumers, other publics

• With universities: searchers, experts, students
  – Study meetings

• Solidarity, conviviality
On-going recovery: culture heritage

• Close relationship with nature, mountains
• Three Lyons Yasaka shrine festival
• Possibility to attract tourists
On-going recovery: management of radiation

• Radiation monitoring
  – Survey of people: 60% people around 1 mSv/y
  – Survey of air, soil, water, products, food
  – Higher dose rates than around
  – Key issue of water (tap water, irrigation); very low contamination

• Decontamination
  – Where people are living

• Waste management (IST)
  – Fears about land contamination
  – Bad image
  – Takes place

• Research
  – Experimental area (soil, trees)
  – Radiation and agriculture
Key challenges

- Lack of people, young, manpower
- Decontamination, waste management
- Common ownership
- Small community to preserve large land
- Need to preserve connection with others
- Low doses, low contamination of products but still radiation – communication, understanding
- Insertion of the local economy in global economy
- Recover the well-being