

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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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