

Outline of the Summary from the IAEA

Ten years of IAEA assistance to the Fukushima Prefecture (referred to as “FP” below) were introduced and discussed in the Summary Workshop held from January 31st to February 3, 2023.

In the Wrap-up session, both the IAEA and FP made summary presentation. Each presentation has shown the key points which each party has considered more important, and thus represents its own viewpoint. Below is the outline of the presentation made by the IAEA.

1. Remediation and Decontamination Session

- ✓ Survey data indicate a continuous decline in radioCs concentrations in rivers since 2011. Decline observed in FP and other parts of the world agree reasonably well. Environmental and climatic conditions in FP and Chornobyl regions are quite different but the behaviour of radioCs is similar.
- ✓ But aquatic systems are complex and very site specific.
- ✓ Human activities, land use, the existence of dams and decontamination activities within a river basin influence the transfer of radioCs through river systems.
- ✓ Large-scale engineering measures are costly and often difficult to implement.
- ✓ But, removal of bottom sediments is an effective and globally applied measure for remediation of water bodies. And, removal of riverside sediments and vegetation reduced dose rates. It persisted and was not affected by typhoons and flooding.
- ✓ It was suggested that further work on evaluating the cost-effectiveness of countermeasures compared to natural attenuation could be used to inform future work.

2. Waste management Session

- ✓ After the accident, for enormous amounts of materials, managed as radioactive waste, Temporary Storage Sites (TSS) were established in FP.
- ✓ FP’s capabilities on radioactive waste management were significantly enhanced by the Technical Guidelines worked as procedures for safe waste management.
- ✓ In addition, support was provided by the IAEA for the safety assessment of TSSs for normal and accidental situations and for all phases of development.
- ✓ Assessed doses during operation of TSS and after waste removal are well below relevant dose limits and long-term goals.
- ✓ The incineration of contaminated materials produced Cs-contaminated ashes. The safety assessment for its landfill disposal was done using IAEA’s Clearance Tool software. The calculated additional doses to residents living near the landfill in the future are very low.
- ✓ It was suggested that stakeholders are assisted by scientists who have understanding of public perception, and that the briefing of the safety assessments be made to the public.

3. Monitoring Session

- ✓ RadioCs deposited in the forests of FP are effectively retained within the ecosystem and the likelihood of radioCs transfers to agricultural land appears to be low.
- ✓ Activity concentrations in wild foods are variable. Decline in Cs concentrations in wild mushrooms and other wild foods is slow and restrictions may be required for many years for some species and in some areas.
- ✓ Although significant progress has been made over the past decade in lifting distribution restriction for inland fish, there are still restrictions on some fish species in some areas, and recreational fishing are not allowed to resume.
- ✓ If FP's approach to GoJ's relevant authorities to lift restrictions needs support, the IAEA is expected to provide technical advice and assistance.
- ✓ It was suggested that radiation monitoring in forest may be necessary for many more years, and its optimization is needed moving forward due to available resources.

4. Information dissemination Session

- ✓ IAEA's assistance was provided on effective ways to communicate information to the public in a timely and understandable manner.
- ✓ Provided methodologies were based on global experience in dealing with accidental releases.
- ✓ Concrete communication products were developed in order to better inform targeted audiences, including website, brochures, etc.
- ✓ FP websites have been revised for better user experience, higher search engine optimization and higher impact. In addition, Google Analytics tool was used to obtain quantitative data on visitor rate, retention, revisiting rates, drill down and bounce rates.
- ✓ Public relation magazine was improved and brochures were made for targeted audiences and specific purposes.
- ✓ It was suggested that the feedback of the outcome from the audience would be collected and used for future optimization.