

atomic energy. Our activities resulted in attracting the attention of school-leavers not only from our town but from the neighbour towns of our region as well.

We use another kind of communication with higher institutions. The Electrostat Department of the Moscow Institute of Steel and Alloys under the agreement with our enterprise every year picks out 15-20 students to specialize in the power metallurgy applied in the UO₂ pellet production technology used in the nuclear fuel production. This specialization begins when students visit our center, and during 2- or 3-hour lecture they are getting acquainted with the principles of the nuclear technique and nuclear technologies.

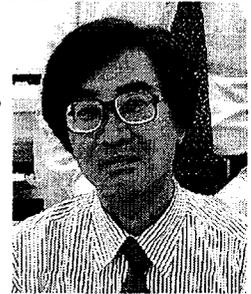
Generally speaking we have come to a conclusion that in schools and colleges pupils get poor knowledge in the field of nuclear physics and atomic energy. Due to that meetings with them are organized in the form of an open lesson dedicated to a deeper knowledge in this field, demonstrating a lot of posters and dummy nuclear reactors, their fuel assemblies and popular science video-films. It should be noted that there is not enough popular literature and films for schoolchildren related to nuclear power. Considering the fact that the Information center of our OAO"MSZ" has its own TV-studio, we try to do our best to make up a deficiency. But it is desirable that within the frames of the activities of the European Nuclear Society such literature and films should be available. To begin with the database for these materials should be generated.



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Present State of the Perception Gap of Nuclear Energy between Japanese Nuclear Energy Supplying Region and an Energy Consuming Region



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Keypoints

- *Public opinion surveys have been carried out since 1998 in Southern Fukui rural district where 15 nuclear reactors are now installed and in Osaka urban region of about 100km apart from Fukui.*
- *The public in the nuclear energy supplying region are found to be very friendly to nuclear energy.*
- *Also in the energy supplying region, many people eagerly want their life to become more convenient than it is now,*
- *In the urban region, the public show strong resistance to nuclear energy so that about 70 % of them oppose to the construction of new reactor in their dwelling region.*
- *Not only the fraction of the public who are satisfied with their present life, but the public fraction who is eagerly support the thought of return-to-nature are found to be very high in the urban region.*

Summary

Public opinion surveys have been carried out since 1998 on what phase and on what extent of the perception of nuclear energy differs between Japanese dwelling in energy supplying region and an energy-consuming region. Southern Fukui rural district where 15 nuclear reactors are now installed and Osaka urban region of about 100 km apart from Fukui were selected as the respective targets for the

energy supplying and consuming regions. Analyses of the data of about 3000 samples have revealed the followings.

- (1) The public in the nuclear energy supplying region are very friendly to nuclear energy so that only about 20 and 39 % of the public are resistive to the general promotion of nuclear energy in Japan and to the construction of another nuclear reactor in their dwelling region, respectively.
- (2) On the other hand, in the energy-consuming region those respective fractions are 41 and 70 %, implying strong resistance to nuclear energy in the urban region.
- (3) Both the degree of interest in and the degree of knowledge on nuclear energy are very low, whereas the extent of fear to nuclear is high for the urban public.
- (4) Not only the fraction of the public who are satisfied with their present life, but the public fraction who is eagerly support the thought of return-to-nature are very high in the urban region.
- (5) On the other hand, in the energy supplying region, many peoples eagerly want their life to become more convenient than it is now, and (6) all those trends (1)-(5) are revealed more pronouncedly in the woman than the man. The perception gap of nuclear energy thus became clear between Japanese dwelling in rural and urban regions. On the basis of this knowledge, discussions on the nature of the so-called NIMBY will be made from the socio-psychological viewpoint and propositions will also be made on the methods to dissolve the perception gap of that sort.



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What is being heard is not necessarily the same as what has been said

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Keypoints

- *General level of knowledge of science issues and ability of understanding these issues should be considered in order to improve efficiency of communication.*
- *Concepts from other disciplines than physics, environmental science, ecology and physiology might greatly influence public perception of nuclear issues.*
- *Public acceptability of nuclear facilities can be improved by uncovering the difference in public and professional concepts and provoking a cognitive conflict that fosters the reconstruction of personal ideas about nuclear issues.*

Summary

Public and especially young people opinion polls in Slovenia indicate a rather high tolerance to the existing nuclear power plant but low acceptance of new nuclear facilities, including a waste disposal facility. Radioactivity and radioactive waste is generally considered a very problematic issue. Although more than 50 % Slovenes declared that they do not need additional information about these issues and therefore expressed they were satisfied with the knowledge they had, the arguments against nuclear facilities expressed in public discussions and even in the media, differ from the scientific and technological accuracy in many cases.

Public attitudes in Slovenia often reflect ideas that can be found in “para-scientific” literature such as new age and alternative health, where terms “energy” and “radiation” are used in a metaphorical and quiet different sense than in the information materials about nuclear energy. This makes the communication