

Countermeasures taken by Science Council of Japan
against Fukushima NPP Accident
– Personal experiences as a corresponding member –

Yasuhito Sasaki , M.D., Ph.D.

Corresponding member of SCJ, Chair of a Subcommittee

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About Science Council of Japan : SCJ

The representative organization of
Japanese scientist community

Covers all fields of sciences:

**humanities, social sciences, natural
sciences and engineering**

About SCJ

Founded in Jan. 1949 as a “special organization” under the jurisdiction of **the Prime Minister**

Operating **independently of the government**

With the purposes:

To **deliberate** on important issues concerning science and help solve such issues.

To make **coordination** among scientific studies to achieve higher efficiency

Organization of SCJ

210 council members and some **2000 members** representing **830,000 scientists**

General Assembly, 3 Section Meetings, the Executive Board, 30 Specialty Committees,

4 Administrative Committees for Operation, Issue-Centered ad hoc Committees

Executive Board

President,

3 Vice-Presidents (in charge of organizational management, contacts with government or international activities)

3 Chairpersons of Sections,

6 Secretaries

Regularly hold meeting to deliberate on the Council's operational matters

Focus of Activities

Policy recommendations to the
government and public

International activities

Promotion of scientific literacy

Establishment of networks among
scientists

Special Issues of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Accident (NPPA)

Started soon after March 11, 2011 by the
leadership of President and Executive
Committee

I have personally involved in some of the
NPPA issues

Personal Commitment concerning NPPA

1. Personal response to a criticism from abroad on the evacuation policy taken by Japanese Government
2. **Outreach to the general public in order to reduce the anxiety for radiation exposures and health effects**
3. Advise in making president's address
4. **Detention of the proposal by a specialist group for blood sampling from workers in the NPP**
5. **Participation in the planning of the first symposium open to the public**
6. Participation in the international symposium on risk communication
7. **Activities in a subcommittee on radiation protection and risk communication**

Outreach to the General Public

Urgent request by the president:

1. To start promptly the explanatory activity with the purpose to mitigate the concern and anxiety for radiation exposures and health effects.
2. To form a specialists group communicating only by e-mails.
3. To utilize home page of SCJ

Outreach to the General Public 2

Weekly news with 4 frames of power point illustration and explanation on basic knowledge of radiation and its health effects.

The trials were controversial:

- very appropriate, easily understandable, short is good
- too difficult, need more explanation

At the end the group held meetings and reorganize the activities

Subcommittee on RP and RC

Reformed under the new Executives as :
Subcommittee under the Clinical Medicine
Committee

Now we are preparing a proposal for
strengthening the educational scheme for
medical and co-medical personnel

Protective Action of Emergency Workers

Collection and storage of blood cells from all nuclear workers at the Fukushima NPP were recommended by a group of prestigious hematologists and oncologists

The purpose was for possible use after accidental exposure to high- dose radiation.

The proposal was supported by some diet members.

Nuclear Safety Committee announced not necessary

Detention of the Proposal

SCJ issued a statement and proclaimed that the collection and storage of blood cells from workers in advance are **not necessary and inappropriate** from the points of view:

1. Radiological protection: Well protected with dose limit of 250mSv/y
2. Emergency medical preparedness: First aid for bone marrow depression is administration of cytokine.
3. Biomedical ethics: Use of unapproved stimulating drugs cannot be justified

The movement has faded down gradually.

NSC appreciated the action of SCJ

Open Seminar

A seminar open to the public was planned and held on July 1, 2011, the first of this kind for SCJ.

The program included “Health effects of radiation”, “The way how to protect yourself from radiation”, “The system of radiological protection” and panel discussion

Two speakers with different opinions were invited in a session

Some lay people among audience asked questions.

Did not seem satisfied, though

My personal view: dialogue type communications are a little more effective

SUMMARY

1. SCJ have been making tremendous endeavor to release basic scientific knowledge on radiation and its health effects to share with and mitigate the anxiety of the general public.
2. The endeavor should be continued and improved to be more effectively accepted.
3. The existence of trained communicators (KATARIBE) should promote reliable relationship between scientists and the general public.
4. Scientific common sense in a particular field should be shared trans-disciplinarily among SCJ members.
5. Scientists can be egoistic, even though apparently well-intentioned, in regard to research they are interested, which may have to be interrupted in order to protect the victims of a casualty.