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# **What level of safety perceived is enough ?** **- Korean Perspectives to the Public Communication -**

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# 1. Introduction

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## ❁ **Public communication in nuclear safety regulation**

- The public understanding and trust on nuclear safety become stunning issue

## ❁ **Public confidence in nuclear safety**

- Democratization, growth of civil rights and expansion of NGO's and local resident's influential power
- No local community to host radwaste management facility

## ❁ **The critical role to achieve the objectives of nuclear safety regulation**

- Significant tool for the public confidence

## 2. What is Regulation and its Objectives ?

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### ❁ Nuclear safety regulation is generally carried out to achieve certain societal goal

- To ensure nuclear safety to the level with which the public is content
- To be performed by the government on behalf of the public
- For the public to be informed of and accept the level of safety achieved

### ❁ Appropriate attention should be taken into the impact of the regulation on the public

- The emotion of the public such as feeling of safety, satisfaction with the safety level perceived

### ❁ How safe is safe enough ?



**What level of safety perceived is enough ?**

# 3. Current Public related Nuclear Issues in Korea

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## ❁ Selection of radwaste management facility site

- Opposition caused by lack of communication
- Deep-rooted distrust on the government and violent response to its strong pushing ahead
- Failure to respond to a changed social, political, and economical environments properly and in time

## ❁ Nuclear events in YGN 5 and 6

- A sensitive reaction of the public to minor events
  - Dislocation of thermal sleeves at SI injection nozzle at YGN unit 5 and 6 and radioactivity leak at YGN unit 5
  - Independent investigation into the events by a third expert organization in foreign countries
  - Difficult situation of the government to regain the public trust
- “ Burnt child loves fire ”**

## 4. Korean Approaches for Effective Public Communication with the Public

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### ❁ Regulators learn what the nuclear safety regulation is

- To be more active to understand the risk perception characteristics of the public and further understand the sentiments of residents and NGOs

### ❁ Attitude shift is being promoted

- From performing regulatory work hard only to positive openness and transparency in regulatory activities

### ❁ Socio-psychological approach is experimented

- Satisfying the public or the residents psychologically is also one of the roles of regulators
- The socio-drama (role playing) is one way of effective communication on nuclear safety perceived

# [ Socio-drama played at KINS in August 2003 ]



## 5. Challenges ahead

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- ❁ **Lack of human resources available in communication with the public**
- ❁ **Difficulty in changing regulatory structure for improvement for regulatory independence, transparency and openness**
- ❁ **Korean people tend to act in very political way**
- ❁ **Enhancement of regulatory quality and effectiveness**
  - Much attention to the evaluation of regulatory performance measured in terms of the satisfaction of the public

## 6. Concluding

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- ❁ **The public realize that regulators are their agent performing regulatory mission on behalf of them**
  - Degradation of trust in regulation and also confidence
  - The situation and phenomena in Korea will be an interesting case for study
- ❁ **Regulator should make every effort to satisfy the public**
  - The communication with the public would play the most important role
  - The public confidence may contributes toward enhancing public acceptance of nuclear power



## 6. Concluding (cont.)

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“Though Regulatory body speaks with the tongues of experts, and have not mission, it becomes as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

And though it has tens of Ph.Ds, and understands all mysteries, and all knowledge about nuclear fission and radiation; and though it has all faith, so that it could remove mountains, and does not satisfy people, it is nothing.

And though it uses all their knowledge for people, and though it gives their body to be burned, and has big nuclear accident, it profits people nothing.”

**(Modified St. Paul's letter to Corinthians 13)**

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**Although You are not  
Interested in Accident,  
Accident is Interested in  
You**

**Thank you**