

## **Reaction Paper Makiko Kikuchi**

In Perception of risk, Slavic introduces the psychometric analysis, a strategy to study perceived risk of individuals and enunciates implications of the analysis, i.e. a predictor of public acceptance and responses to hazards. It was interesting to know the huge discrepancy of the perceived risks between lay people and experts. It would make things easier if we lay people analyzed risks in just numerical data such as probability of accidents, number of potential casualties, morbidity and mortality. I agree with the author's conclusion telling that "basic conceptualization (of lay people) of risk is much richer than that of the experts and reflects legitimate concerns that are typically omitted from expert risk assessment." Obviously, everyone thinks uniquely. Therefore communication among all actors including media, NGOs, and policy makers as well as lay people and experts is essential. Furthermore, a multiple-way process rather than Slavic's "two-way" process may be more desirable for the optimal risk management in the modern society.

In Risk Communication, Löfstedt elaborates that the limitations of the "old school" approach for risk communication driven by Swedish government and that how risk communication efforts could be hampered by social amplification and political actors using the disputes for their political gain by showing the Barsebäck nuclear power plant case. Since most governments might be thought of as "untrustworthy" objects nowadays unlike the "trustworthy" Swedish government, the reciprocal risk communication will increase its importance more in future.

In Swedish Aid and Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, Löfstedt and Jankauskas articulates the transboundary risk management. Sweden would like to improve the safety of the Ignalina plant in Lithuania, not only because the nuclear plant is located in proximity to its coast but also because it depends on nuclear power to meet 50% of its energy needs. Unlike the Barsebäck nuclear power plant case in the previous paper, a factor that makes the dispute more formidable may be power dynamics between Lithuania and Sweden. The vocabulary --"aid" does not mean that the robust developed countries can waive their liability on potential risks that are owed by less developed countries.

In Border Crossings, Jeanne Kasperson and Roger Kasperson introduce four types of transboundary risk situations and classical classifications of transboundary risk. They also mentioned social attenuation as well as social amplification. Their analysis of the present international environmental situation is very convincing that "many of which (the WTO's effort to reduce trade barriers) may not be advantage of the less developed countries." Given the fact that many risks may no longer be boundary nowadays due to the globalization, inequality and distrust should be corrected in the international arena aiming optimal development and fair risk allocation.