Risk Analysis of Taiwan Food Import from Japan after the Fukushima Nuclear Accident

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Presentation Only: Globalization has resulted in the spread of infectious diseases, food safety and environmental issues, commodity hazmat and radiation proliferation and other public issues. Risk analysis including risk assessment, risk management and risk communication, the fundamental methodology of food safety standards enables modern citizens to enjoy the benefits of technological developments while ensuring autonomy. In US and Europe, professional questions are handled by experts, yet in Taiwan, everyone wants to participate. Public opinion has roughly the same capacity as normal distribution, so naïve opinions take up the majority. Since lack of trust is a major issue in Taiwan, effective communication is essential. Especially, informal pre-policy public interaction is key. How to enable the people with foresight and expert opinions to help the public make the right choices will be of great help to the quality of democratic decision-making. On December 10, 2014, Taiwan's Food Safety and Sanitation Management Law amendment "Food Safety Risk Management" Article 4 state that food safety management measures should be based on risk assessment. The methodology of risk assessment for Taiwan food import from Japan after the Fukushima nuclear accident will be introduced. Radiation detection approach for imported food from Japan will be addressed. Taiwanese research and regulatory bodies, both INER (Institute of Nuclear Energy Research, Atomic Energy Council (AEC)) and RMC (Radiation Monitoring Center, AEC)'s radiation detection methods are all certified by the Taiwan Accreditation Foundation (TAF), which are the same as those used in EU and Japan. At present, only the detection of Cs-134, Cs-137 and I-131, and detection of Sr-90 are not allowed in regular inspection of food radiation tests. Cs limit set at 100 Bq / kg has taken into account the factors affecting human health, thus it does not need parallel analysis of other nuclear species. Two case study of risk communication with the member of Taiwan Legislative Yuan and one of the Taiwan NGOs will be discussed. Risk analysis can construct a mechanism which meets both scientific standards and communication of risk control. The general public often has unnecessary fear towards unidentified affairs, yet scientific methods provide a means to deal with this problem. Risk analysis is an important and accurate tool for the formation of public policies in modernized countries. We strive for food safety policy to be in keeping with scientific methods while balancing the interests of all parties. However, the final choice is still in the hands of the people in Taiwan.