

Nuclear Utilization and Role of (Geo-)Scientists: Perspectives of Science and Technology Studies

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It has been one of the most important topics of public discussion that the risk and its management of nuclear facilities caused by natural disasters, such as earthquake and tsunami, since the Fukushima Nuclear Accident on March, 2011. Our relevant scientific knowledge on those phenomena and the role of scientists have also been re-examined as an inevitable consequence of that.

In this presentation, some perspectives of science and technology studies (STS) on this topic will be introduced to widen and deepen our scope of discussion. Concretely, the relationship among natural science, engineering, policy- and decision-making and civil society will be illustrated and examined. Which part of those interactions is the key of the problem? What kind of role is expected desirable to geo-scientists and their community? Furthermore, how about is the possible idea of engagement of and collaboration with STS researchers and other social scientists on this issue? These questions will be discussed taking the case of Hamaoka Nuclear Power Station.

Keywords: Science and Technology Studies (STS), Natural Science and Engineering, Role of (Geo-)Scientists