Plenary Lecture

REVISIT RISK ANALYSIS: SIXTEEN YEARS OF SRA-JAPAN IN THE RISK SOCIETY

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The history of "risk analysis" in SRA-Japan will be overviewed focusing the societal management of new emerging environmental risks that rapid advancement of science and technology has brought, while they have been giving the benefits to society at the same time. Those are, for examples, new types of infectious diseases and viruses, endocrine disruptors of chemicals, genetically modified foods. biodiversity loss by invasive species and so on. In this presentation, first, we will examine the recent progress in fields of risk sciences, namely, how "risk" has been defined, identified, assessed and managed among the stakeholders involved in the whole steps of "risk analysis" that consists of risk identification, risk assessment and risk management based on the classical but leading guidelines proposed by US SRC in 1988. The interdisciplinary and multi-dimensional nature of "risk" is one of the key factors to understand why the risk is differently perceived and identified by public, the experts, and other stakeholders. Then, we will explore recent attempts of building new frameworks or platforms of governing such risk issues that have high scientific uncertainty or indeterminacy, resulting from both limitations in scientific tools and the complex nature of social and environmental systems. Finally some lessons from the activities of the SRA-Japan will be provided in terms of risk governance for the society of the risk divided.