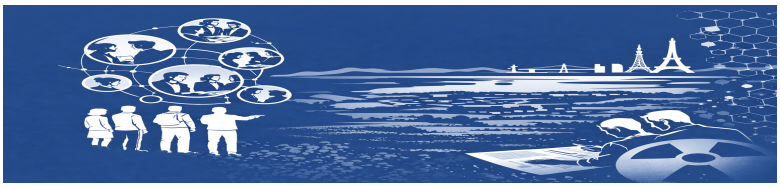
EUROPEAN-JAPANESE SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF RISK GOVERNANCE IN RECOVERY

DESIGNING SAFETY IN TERRITORIES

Radiological protection and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in dialogue

September 21st, 2026

Paris (France)



EUROPEAN-JAPANESE SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF RISK GOVERNANCE IN RECOVERY

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Radiological protection has progressively expanded beyond a specialized field of exposure control to become a core component of long-term risk governance in territories. This evolution has been accelerated by major accidents and disasters experiences, as well as the growing recognition that radiological protection is enacted through intertwined scientific, technical, institutional, and societal practices.

Contemporary radiological protection addresses a wide set of challenges that unfold in complex territorial contexts: environmental and food monitoring, management of contaminated soils and materials, long-term recovery strategies, occupational and public health protection, and the organization of decision processes under uncertainty over extended time horizons. These challenges require not only robust scientific and engineering approaches, but also sustained coordination among institutions, experts, local authorities, and affected communities.

Over the past decade, and particularly in the post-Fukushima context, Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) research has provided essential insights into how radiological protection operates as a socio-technical and institutional practice. SSH contributions help clarify:

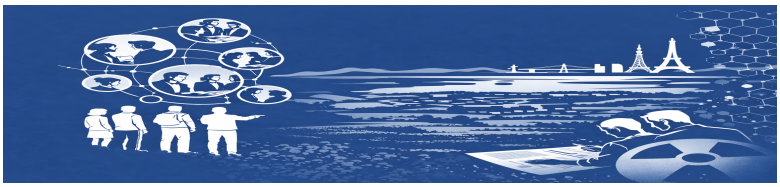
- how expertise is organized, communicated, and translated in territorial settings;
- how monitoring, standards, and protective actions interact with local life, economic recovery, and social dynamics;
- how stakeholder engagement and knowledge integration shape the effectiveness and sustainability of recovery strategies;
- how institutions learn (or fail to learn) from experience, and how practices evolve through feedback, adaptation, and coordination.

Yet, SSH contributions can remain under-utilized when they are reduced to “communication support” or framed as external critique rather than as analytical resources for improving governance arrangements and decision processes.

The objective of this seminar is therefore not to oppose SSH to technical expertise, nor to question regulatory authority. It is to develop a structured European–Japanese dialogue on how radiological protection can be strengthened through:

1) learning from experience,
2) cross-learning between institutional and territorial contexts, and
3) robust integration of technical, organizational, and social knowledge.

Europe and Japan provide a particularly relevant setting for such a dialogue. Japan has developed extensive post-accident experience and innovative practices in the management of contaminated territories, stakeholder engagement, and recovery governance. In Europe, several countries (France for example) and European organizations, with strong radiological protection infrastructures and long-standing involvement in international frameworks, offers complementary perspectives in preparedness, institutional design, and expertise organization. The seminar is conceived as a space for reciprocal learning and for developing shared analytical and operational perspectives. It is therefore framed as a learning-oriented dialogue rather than a comparative assessment of national models.



EUROPEAN-JAPANESE SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF RISK GOVERNANCE IN RECOVERY

OBJECTIVES

The seminar pursues four operational objectives:

1. **Consolidate shared understanding** of key challenges in territorial radiological protection and long-term recovery governance.
2. **Identify transferable insights** from Japanese experience and clarify how they can be adapted to other institutional and territorial contexts.
3. **Contribute to develop SSH-informed analytical frameworks** that strengthen decision processes, stakeholder engagement, and institutional learning in radiological protection.
4. **Produce actionable outputs**: recommendations, joint publication tracks, and a European–Japanese coordination platform for SSH–radiological protection research and practice.

CONCEPTUAL ORIENTATION

The seminar is structured around three analytical themes, centered on territorial radiological protection and long-term governance.

I. Radiological protection as a socio-technical practice in territories

- From measurement to meaning: interpreting monitoring results in lived environments
- Standards, reference levels, and protective actions as operational instruments in complex contexts
- Organising radiological protection across institutions and territorial actors
- Managing uncertainty and long time horizons: adaptive approaches and feedback mechanisms

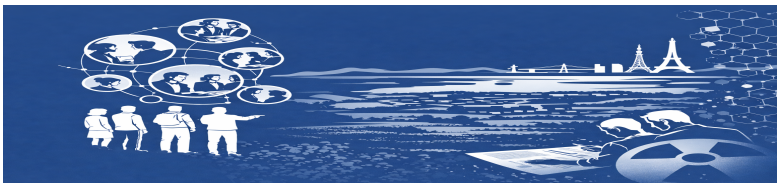
II. Stakeholder engagement and knowledge integration in recovery contexts

- Stakeholder involvement as part of radiological protection architecture (not as an add-on)
- Co-expertise and distributed monitoring practices: conditions, limits, and effects
- Integrating technical knowledge, local knowledge, and professional practices
- Practical coordination formats: multi-actor, multi-criteria decision processes

III. Institutional arrangements for learning from experience and cross-learning

- How institutions learn from post-accident and long-term recovery experience
- Knowledge circulation between national frameworks and territorial practices
- Organising cross-learning between Europe and Japan: what transfers, what does not, and why
- Building institutional robustness: procedural quality, transparency of decision processes, and accountability mechanisms (in an operational, non-polemical sense)

Guiding question: How can territorial radiological protection be strengthened through SSH-informed approaches that enhance knowledge integration, decision processes, and institutional learning, within and across national contexts?



EUROPEAN-JAPANESE SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF RISK GOVERNANCE IN RECOVERY

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE (10:00–17:00)

10:00–10:15 — Welcome and opening remarks

Objective:
Introduce the goals of the day, the European–Japanese learning logic, and the expected outputs.

10:15–10:50 — Opening Keynote — SSH and Radiological Protection: Why territories require a different analytical lens

Format: 30–35 minutes keynote + 5 minutes transition

Objective:
Provide an SSH framing that is analytically rigorous and institutionally constructive, clarifying how SSH contributes to radiological protection through learning, coordination, and decision-process design.
Key points:

1. **Why radiological protection is inherently socio-technical in territories** (measurement, standards, and protective actions as practices embedded in social life)
2. **What SSH adds, without being "only communication support"**:
    - analysis of knowledge integration and translation
    - institutionnel coordination and organisationnel interfaces
    - decision processes under uncertainty over long durations
3. **Learning from experience and cross-learning** as the central methodological stance:
    - what Fukushima changed in international radiological protection discussions
    - why Japanese experience is a key knowledge resource
    - how Europe–Japan dialogue can avoid "comparison" and instead produce "transferable insights"
4. **Seminar roadmap:** how the sessions and working groups will generate outputs.

10:50–11:50 — Session I — Learning from the Japanese experience: recovery governance and radiological protection practices

More than a decade after the Fukushima Daiichi accident, Japan has accumulated an extensive body of practical experience in the management of radiological contamination in inhabited territories. These experiences encompass a wide range of activities, including environmental monitoring, food safety management, soil remediation, the organization of radiation measurement initiatives, and the progressive rehabilitation of living conditions in affected areas.

Beyond their technical dimensions, these processes also reveal the institutional and organizational challenges associated with long-term recovery. Radiological protection practices must operate across multiple levels of governance, involving national authorities, local governments, scientific experts, and territorial actors. The Japanese experience therefore offers a particularly valuable opportunity to analyze

how technical expertise, institutional coordination, and territorial realities interact over extended periods of time.

This session aims to examine what insights can be drawn from these experiences and how they contribute to broader reflections on the evolution of radiological protection practices internationally.

Format:

- Two 20-minute analytical interventions (Japan / Europe)
- 20-minute moderated discussion

- **Key issues:**

    - organizing monitoring and interpretation over time
    - managing contaminated soils and materials in inhabited territories
    - coordination between institutions, local governments, experts, and communities
    - how practices evolved through feedback and adaptation

12:05–13:05 — Session II — Stakeholder engagement and co-expertise as components of radiological protection

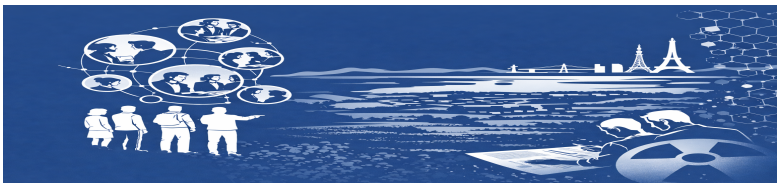
Radiological protection in contaminated territories increasingly involves forms of interaction between experts, institutions, and local actors that go beyond traditional models of expert-driven decision-making. In the post-Fukushima context, a variety of practices have emerged that integrate local monitoring initiatives, community-based measurements, and collaborative forms of knowledge production.
These developments have stimulated significant interest within both the radiological protection community and SSH research. They raise important analytical questions regarding how different types of knowledge, scientific, technical, professional, and experiential, can be combined within operational decision processes.
Rather than treating stakeholder engagement as a purely communicational activity, this session examines how such interactions can become structural components of radiological protection practices, contributing to improved understanding of exposure situations, more context-sensitive protective actions, and enhanced institutional learning.

Format:

- Two 20-minute interventions (Europe / Japan)
- One 10-minute institutional perspective
- 15-minute discussion (first round)

Key issues:

- co-expertise and distributed monitoring: conditions of effectiveness
- avoiding reductionism: engagement as architecture, not as messaging
- integrating technical and local knowledge into decision processes
- maintaining operational clarity under uncertainty



EUROPEAN-JAPANESE SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF RISK GOVERNANCE IN RECOVERY

14:05–15:05 — Structured Working Groups (4 groups of 8 participants)

The afternoon working groups aim to move from analytical discussion to the exploration of practical and conceptual innovations. The objective is to examine how radiological protection practices can be strengthened through improved coordination between expertise, institutional arrangements, and territorial actors.

Participants will work in interdisciplinary groups combining SSH researchers, engineers, institutional representatives, and field practitioners. This composition reflects the seminar's central premise: that radiological protection challenges in territorial contexts require the integration of multiple forms of knowledge and experience.

Each group will focus on a specific dimension of territorial radiological protection governance, with the goal of identifying conceptual clarifications, institutional innovations, and operational recommendations that can inform future research and practice.

Each group will designate a rapporteur responsible for preparing a short slide-based synthesis to be presented in plenary session.

Documentation and reporting

To ensure that the seminar produces structured and usable outputs, each thematic session and working group will be supported by a designated rapporteur responsible for documenting key analytical insights and emerging proposals.

Rapporteurs will prepare a short slide-based synthesis (5–6 slides) summarizing:

- the main analytical points raised during the session
- convergences and divergences identified in the discussion
- key conceptual clarifications emerging from the dialogue
- operational recommendations or research directions.

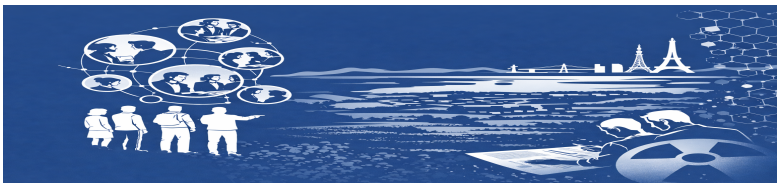
These slides will serve three purposes:

1. facilitating the cross-session critique and synthesis discussion in the afternoon;
2. contributing to the final seminar report;
3. supporting the preparation of future joint publications and research initiatives.

Each working group will also designate a rapporteur responsible for presenting the group's synthesis in slides during the plenary reporting session.

Themes:

1. **Designing decision processes for long-term recovery** (multi-actors, multi-criteria, uncertainty, feedback)
2. **Knowledge integration and co-expertise** (conditions, roles, boundaries, evaluation)
3. **Territorial monitoring and interpretation** (from data to shared understanding)
4. **Cross-learning Europe–Japan** (transferable insights, adaptation conditions, limits)
5. **Institutional evolution prior to post-accident management** (process, role, prerogatives, inter-organizational, trust)



EUROPEAN-JAPANESE SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF RISK GOVERNANCE IN RECOVERY

Deliverables (each group):

- One key conceptual clarification (1 paragraph)
- One institutional or procedural innovation proposal (concrete)
- Three implementable recommendations (short, actionable)

15:05–15:35 — Cross-session discussion

Format:
Each group presents (5 minutes). Another group provides a structured critical response (5 minutes).
Objective:
Strengthen analytical rigor, avoid disciplinary closure, and improve transferability of proposals.

15:50–16:40 — High-level roundtable — Building shared approaches for territorial radiological protection

The final roundtable aims to place the analytical discussions of the day within a broader institutional and international perspective. Drawing on insights generated during the sessions and working groups, participants will reflect on the contribution of SSH to the possible evolution of radiological protection practices in the coming years.

Particular attention will be given to the role of international dialogue and cross-learning between national contexts. Europe and Japan possess distinct but complementary experiences in radiological protection, and their interaction can contribute to identify key SSH issues for the development of more robust analytical frameworks and operational practices.

The roundtable will therefore explore how lessons emerging from the Japanese experience, combined with European institutional perspectives and SSH research insights, can contribute to the collective evolution of radiological protection governance.

Central question (choose one):

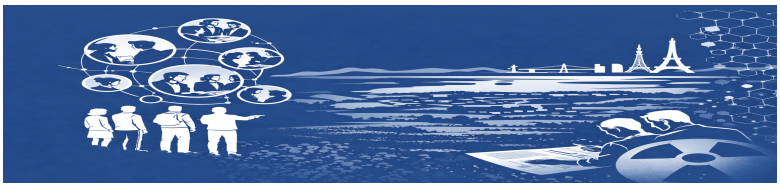
- What would an effective model of territorial radiological protection governance look like in institutional practice?
- Designing decision processes under long-term uncertainty: which practical architectures work?
- Cross-learning Europe–Japan: what are the most transferable lessons and where are the limits?
- How to organize knowledge integration between experts, institutions, and territories over time?

16:40–17:00 — Synthesis and forward agenda

- Consolidation of recommendations
- Identification of joint publication themes
- Proposal for a Franco–Japanese coordination platform
- Preparation of a bilateral funding roadmap

PRE-SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS

All participants are requested to submit, two weeks in advance:



EUROPEAN-JAPANESE SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF RISK GOVERNANCE IN RECOVERY

1) A 2-page analytical note including

- One persistent challenge in territorial radiological protection (technical + institutional + social interface)
- One conceptual ambiguity that generates operational friction
- One concrete procedural or institutional innovation proposal that supports learning/adaptation

2) A short bio with a photo and five references

These notes will be circulated to enable substantive discussion.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. A structured seminar report (shared findings + recommendations)
2. A proposal for a special issue (e.g., *Journal of Radiological Protection*, *Radioprotection*, *Journal of Risk Research*, etc.)
3. A European–Japanese research and practice coordination platform (SSH–radiological protection)
4. A preparatory framework for collaboration focused on territorial radiological protection governance and learning from experience

POSITIONING

This seminar is designed as a experience-oriented scientific dialogue. Its ambition is neither disciplinary expansion nor institutional critique, but analytical integration and practical cross-learning in support of radiological protection challenges in territories.

EUROPEAN–JAPANESE SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE

Myriam MERAD, UMR CNRS LAMSADE, Dauphine University, Paris (France)	Susumu OHNUM, Hokkaydo University, Sapporo, Hokkaydo (Japan)	Michaël TICHAUER, ASNR, Fontenay-aux-Roses (France)
Thierry SCHNEIDER, CEPN, Fontenay-aux-Roses (France)	....	...
....	....	....