A PERSONAL COMMENT
FOR "SOCIAL-SCIENCE LITERACY FOR NUCLEAR ENGINEERS & SCIENTISTS IN NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL"

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An Information: Distinction between “Social Science” and “Sociology”

- Humanities
  - Literature
  - Philosophy
  - Aesthetics
  - Archeology
  - Religion Study
  - Ethics
  - History
  - Pedagogy
  - Psychology

- Social Sciences
  - Law
  - Political Science
  - Economics
  - Business Science
  - Sociology
  - Anthropology
  - History
  - Pedagogy
  - Psychology
Key Message

- “Debate” to “Dialogue”
- What is “critical”
- Social Science/Scientists stand by Natural Scientists/Engineers
- How to liberate scientists/engineers from social and *de facto* limitation which prevent frank and multi-dimensional discussion/thinking
Think my/our position again

- A Social Scientist in the *Engineering Department*
  - Studying *Sociology of Science and Technology*
  - Interested in issues centering around “public interest in the decision making on energy technologies”
- Join the Program not to blame and/or criticize scientists/engineers, but to collaborate with them
- Our common object is to build good relationship between S&T and society
  - The GCOE educational program have to cultivate human resources who can join those challenge
- It is important to interpret and translate so-called STS output to think WITH scientists/engineers
Reflective Impression for past discussion

- The patterns of “Debate”
  - In the past seminars, we tend to do “debates”, not “dialogue”
  - The “debates” show a pattern or routine
    - Social scientist criticized the lack of social consideration in the explanation by engineer people
    - Engineers emphasized adequacy of current situation (in both side of scientific and political)

- Shift to “Dialogue” (cf. Prof Washida’s talk in Osaka Univ.)
  - We both should be open to change our own mind or thoughts by fifty-fifty “dialogue”
Science and Technology in Society

- We should confirm to share these value, before begin our activities
  - Science and Technology in Society
  - S&T of the people, by the people, for the people
  - Scientist/Engineer as a member of civil society
  - Both of us have no privilege in this dialogue
  - But, we have to respect each other as “expert”

- Quit the exchange of hostile criticism
  - What is the exact meaning of the word 「批判的」 「批判」 (“hihan-teki” “hihan”, means critical and critique)
    - cf. Kant’s “The Critique of Pure Reason”
Social Science for Scientists/Engineers

- Our challenge is not against scientist/engineers, but with them
  - Edit social scientific and/or STS knowledge in not hostile manner, but in supportive narrative for them
    - But keep “critical” point of view
  - Think to establish good relationship with society together
    - Relativize conventional stereotypes and beliefs
    - Think differently from multiple points of view
  - We social scientist in this program always clearly stand by technical people (strong trust between us)
Methods of education

- Mental exercise in the way of social science
  - So-called *liberal arts* education
- Case Studies on Positive Cases
  - Overcome the failure
  - Build consensus
  - Establish reputation
- Workshop style exercise by group study
  - Role play style
  - Fieldwork in facility sites
Some points to be considered

- Some difficulty in nuclear engineers’ reality in Japan
  - Too heavy “representativeness” for each individual
    - Every engineers in nuclear field become an ambassador, automatically
    - They are very sensitive in their own behavior under strong pressure in nuclear community
  - How to ‘liberate’ them those constraints?
    - This points may beyond the issue in the educational program?