

Nuclear Safety Myth

Rests upon following:

- "Radiation = super-potent toxin" (radiophobia)
- "Gov't will prevent us from accidents" (paternalism)
- "We are different from other nations that had accidents" (arrogance)

When accident occurs, public loses trust, and panics



Visitor Exhibit, Shin-Kori, South Korea (top)



Shika, Japan visitor center with "Alice in Wonderland" characters (NY Times)

Fukushima as “Elite Panic”

Elite panic = when governmental or industrial elites panic in fear of public panic

Example: PM Kan interfering in chain-of-command (Funabashi, 2012)

Failure of public education → superstitious fears of radiation → panic



Yoichi Funabashi, *Testimony*, Rebuild Japan.

