

REMEMBER CHERNOBYL. THREE DECADES SINCE THE NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

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Abstract. The nuclear accident in Chernobyl will remain one of the most disastrous events of this kind in the history of humanity, which has caused significant fatalities, affected population and environment health in the short and long run, provoked damage of billions of dollars, determined the shutdown of this nuclear power plant and imposed drastic measures for safety improvement in the functioning of RBMK reactors etc. Humankind is not allowed to forget the disaster that occurred in April 1986 and has to make sure that such accidents are prevented in the future. The present article reviews and recollects the events that took place three decades ago in Chernobyl: the causes of the disaster, the immediate and long-term measures taken by the authorities to eliminate some of its consequences, its effects on human and environmental health condition, its social and economic consequences and the current situation in the area strongly affected by this accident etc. The accident may be regarded as (an accidental) large-scale “experiment” concerning the impact of acute and chronic radiation on life and environment, the recovery capacity of the living matter, the manner to act under such circumstances, the measures to be taken to minimize the effects of similar events etc. We ought to learn from such unhappy incident show to avoid similar situations in the future, and if ever experienced again, how to be better prepared to cope with them and reduce their short-term and long-term effects.

Key words: Nuclear accident, health, economic, social consequences, current state.

Introduction

Three decades have passed since one of the greatest catastrophes in modern human history, provoked by an accident which occurred during the nonviolent usage of one of the most controversial forms of energy discovered by man: nuclear energy. More specifically, we refer to the explosion of unit no. 4 from the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl (Ukraine) on 26 April 1986, having as a result the radioactive contamination of a considerable surface of Europe with immediate and long-term economic and social consequences and causing an impact on human and environmental health which is hard to estimate. After this unhappy incident, the world has become reluctant to releasing energy from splitting the atoms to generate electric power and, in some countries, under public opinion pressure, governments have been forced to consider new energetic