

**The FNCA project leaders meeting
of public information on nuclear energy
November 4-6, 2003
Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**

**Country report
on public information**

**Presented by
Dang thi Hong - VAEC**

1. Public Information Activities in Vietnam

- ❖ **May 2001, the Prime Minister issued order on pre-feasibility study project for the first nuclear power plant in Vietnam. The project's results will be an important basis for the Vietnamese policy makers to decide the long-term strategy of nuclear energy in the country. In this project, public information is one of the important chapters dealing with great significance and importance of public information activities in the national nuclear power program, building up the public information system on nuclear power in Vietnam and measures for implement.**

- ❖ **March 2002, the Prime Minister issued order on establishment a Steering Committee for P/F study project headed by the Minister of Industry and Sub-headed by the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology.**
- ❖ **For two years 2002-2003, Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC) has fulfilled the scheme on Study to elucidate the aspects related to the nuclear power development in Vietnam. The results will be submitted to the highest institutions of the country by the end of 2003.**

- ❖ **October 2002, a Vietnam Television Mission visited Japan for ten days to make a series of programs on nuclear power and nuclear application in Japan. Vietnamese television viewers had a good chance to understand about nuclear power development in Japan as well as effective applications of nuclear power in many field of life.**
- ❖ **From last October, three exhibitions on peaceful uses of nuclear power were held in provinces of Ninh Thuan, Phu Yen and Ho Chi Minh City. About ten thousands of visitors for each exhibition. These exhibitions have really improved understanding and knowledge of the public on nuclear energy.**

Exhibition on peaceful uses of atomic energy in
Ninh Thuan Province



Exhibition in Ninh Thuan



April 2003, the fourth exhibition on peaceful uses of nuclear power was held in Ho Chi Minh City.



Exhibition in Ho Chi Minh City
Duration: 5 days; Number of visitors: about 10000



- ❖ September 2003 Mission of Central Commission for Science and Education of the Vietnam Communist Party visited some nuclear power establishments in Japan for a week and had a discussion with some senior managers of Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. (JAIF). After return home, the Mission's members have had actual knowledge on nuclear power development and its applications in Japan. Information obtained is very useful for the policy makers to decide the long-term strategy for nuclear power program in Vietnam.
- ❖ October 2003 The Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC) took part in Vietnam Technology and Equipment Market held in Giang Vo Exhibition Center. Thousands of visitors were known more about nuclear energy and nuclear applications in the fields of Agriculture, Health Care, Biology, Industry, etc.

- ❖ The FNCA 2003 Project Leaders Meeting of Public Information of Nuclear Energy held in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in November 4-6, 2003 is a very important event for Public Information activities in Vietnam. During FNCA 2003 PI PL meeting, two seminars on producing nuclear power and nuclear application in industry will help the Vietnamese public to understand more about the role of nuclear energy for energy security and environmental protection as well as nuclear applications in many fields of life.
- ❖ I would like to emphasize that Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC) has a successful cooperation with Press Media such as Television, Radio and Magazines.
- ❖ There are about tens VTV broadcastings and tens articles on nuclear per year.

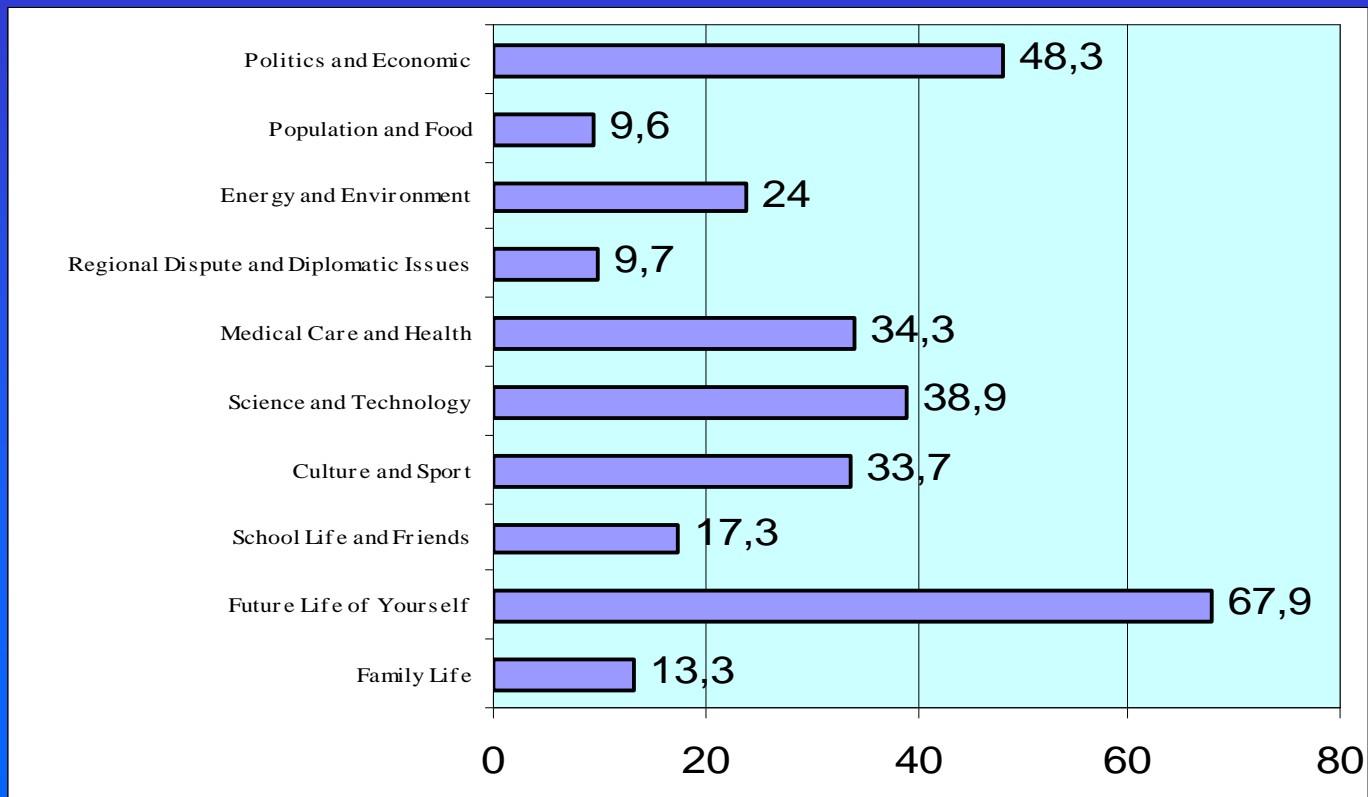
2. Joint Survey of Understanding and Interest in Radiation among high school students in Vietnam

September 2002 Joint Survey of Understanding and Interests in Radiation among High School Students was carried out in Viet Duc High School, Hanoi. Before answering questions, students were heard a 30-minute speech by the VAEC staff and saw the model of nuclear power plant as well as some pictures of nuclear power and nuclear applications in various fields. All answer sheets were submitted to Japan

Analysis of survey results in Vietnam

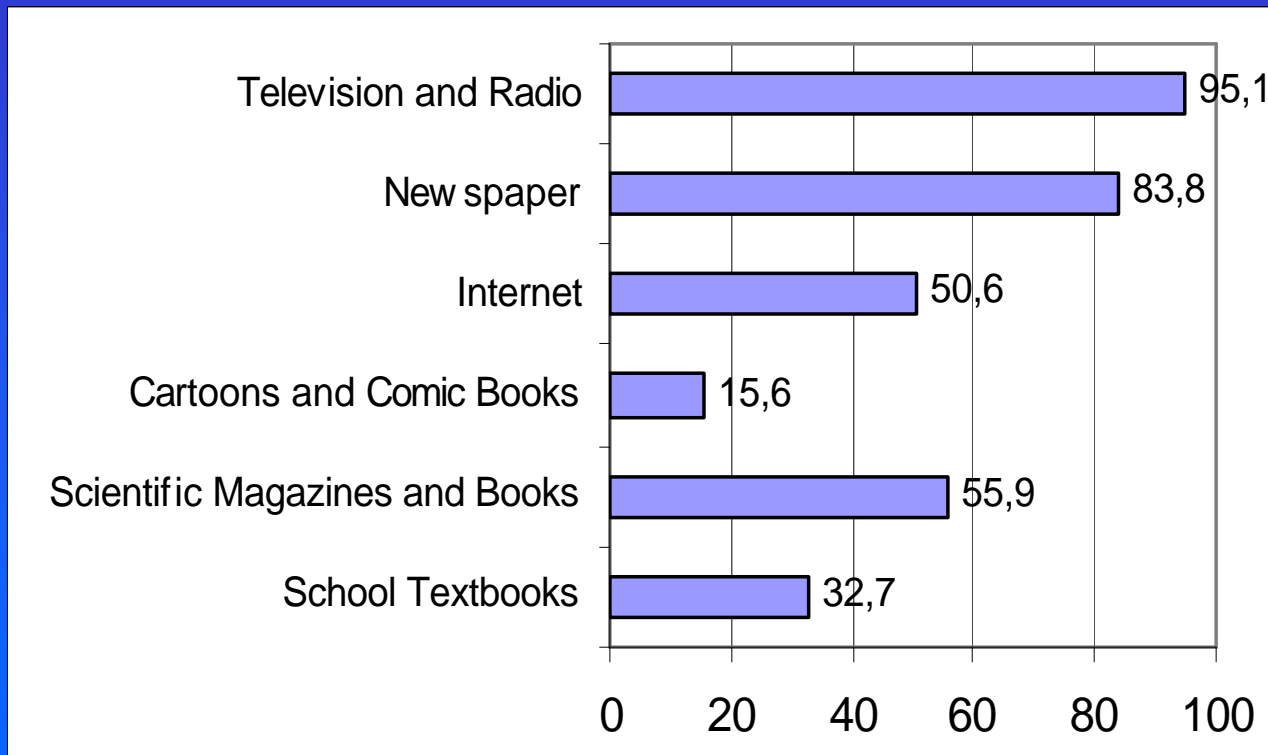
Students concern more about their future life (67.9%).

Besides, Politics & Economics, Science & Technology and Culture & Sports are also Interests of students. (About 40%).



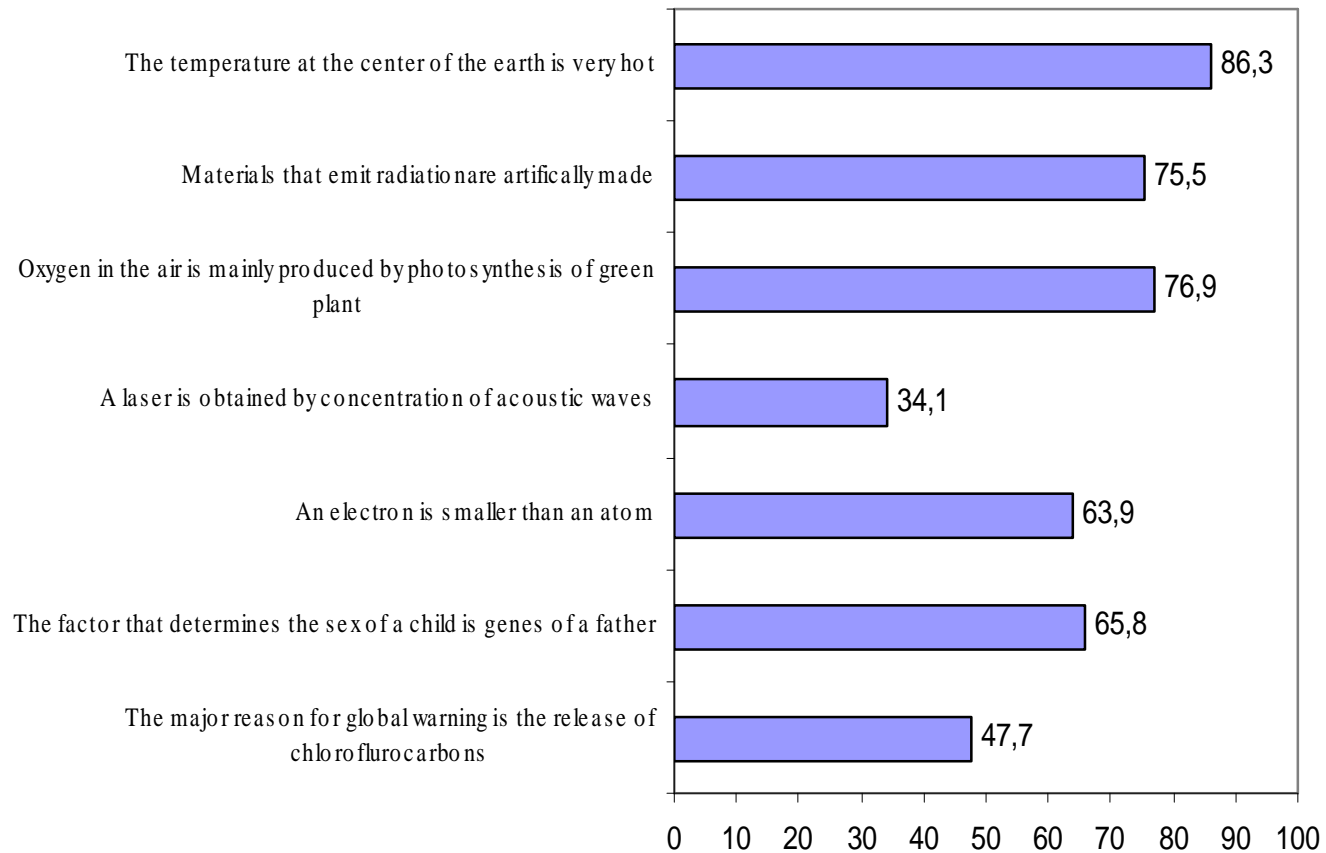
Source of information on science and technology

Television, Radio (95%); Newspaper (83%); scientific magazines and books (55.9%); School textbooks; schoolteachers and friends



Knowledge on science and technology

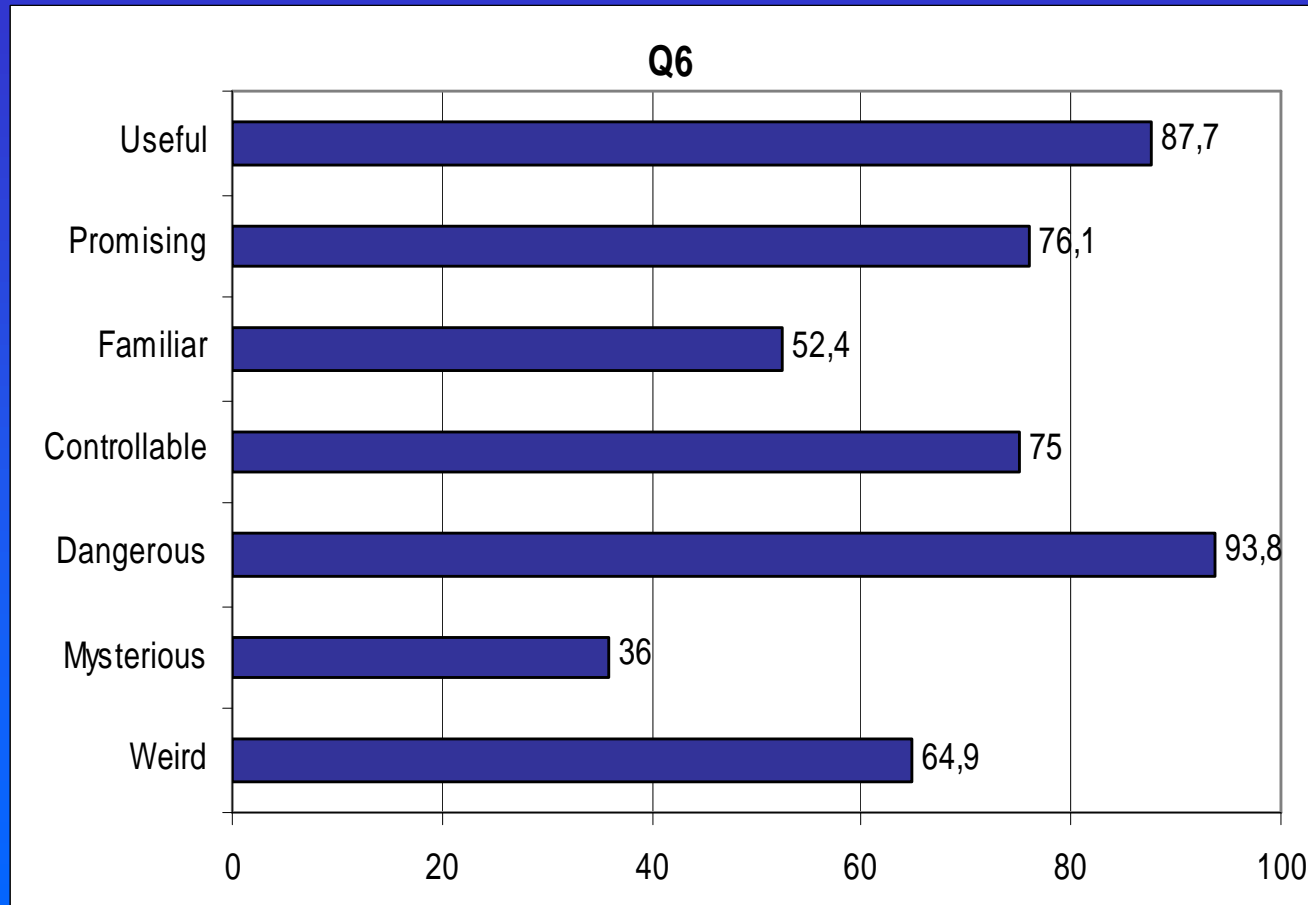
Q3



Understanding and Knowledge on radiation

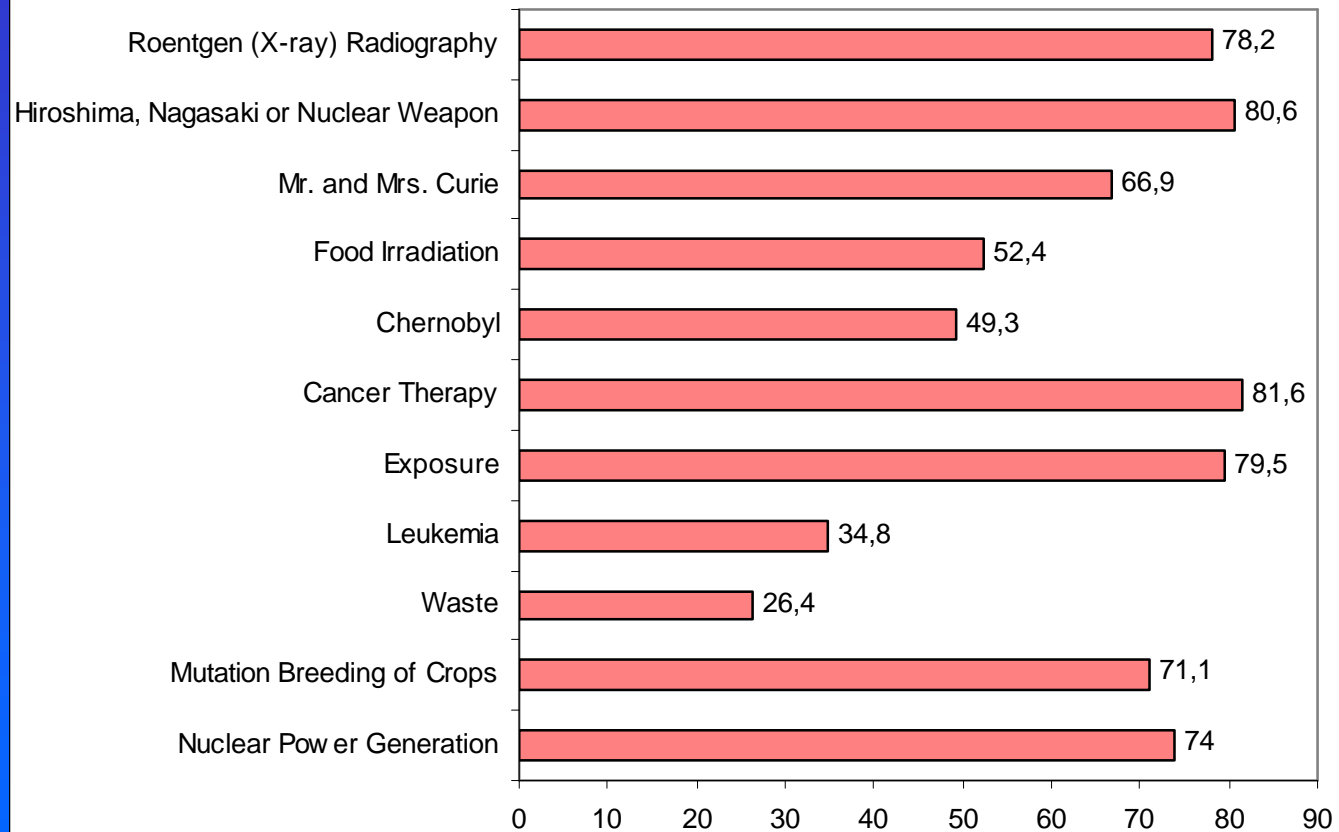
- Almost of students think that radiation is useful, promising, controllable but dangerous. They know about some applications of radiation in the fields of medicine, agriculture, industry, biology and cancer therapy. Their imagines on radiation are X-ray radiography, atomic bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, nuclear power plants worldwide and cancer therapy. (Q6, Q7, Q8 and Q9). Many high school students would like to know more about radiation and its application in Health Care, Medicine, Agriculture, and Industry. (Q12).

Understanding on radiation

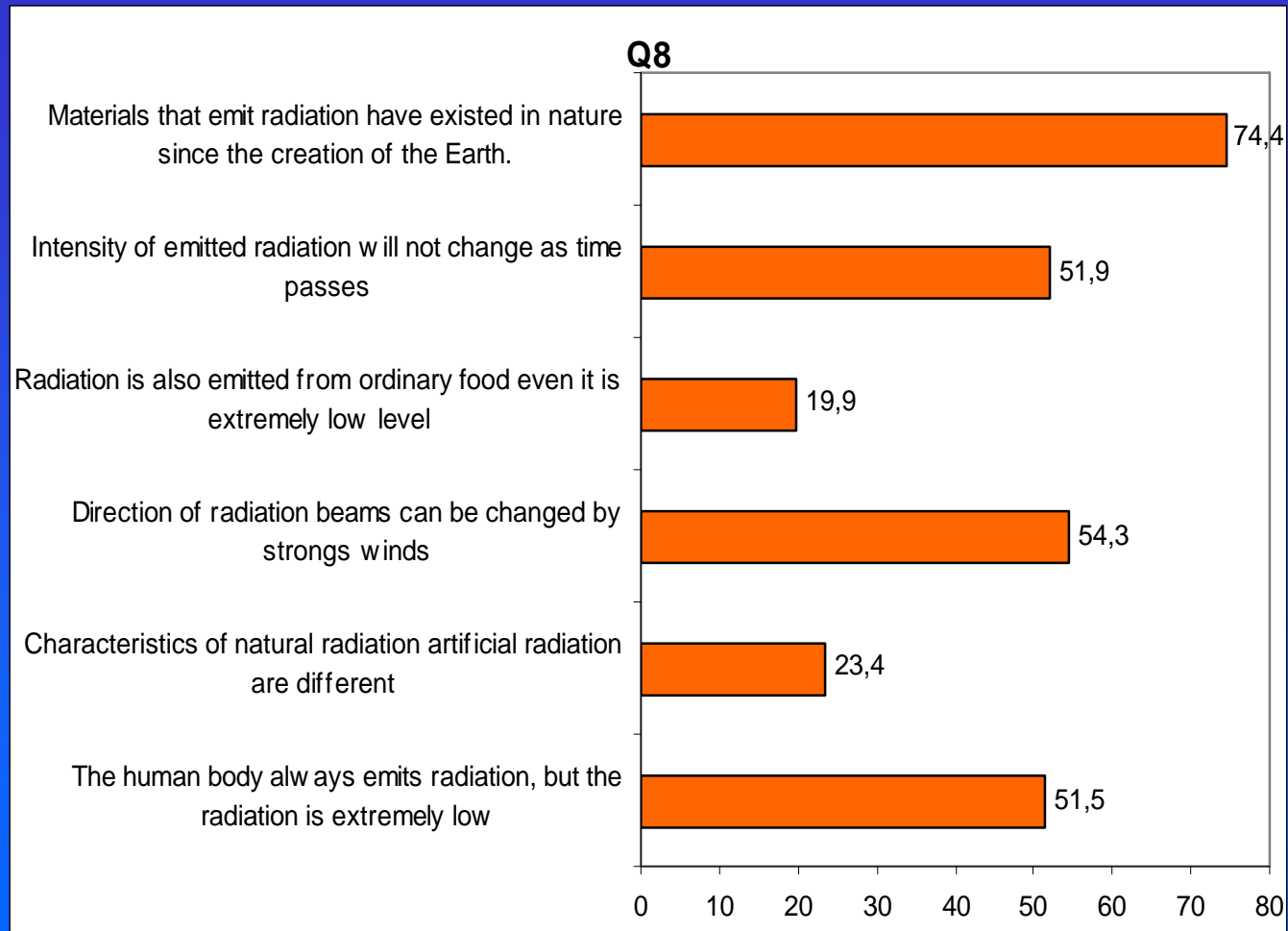


Understanding on radiation (continuous)

Q7



Understanding on radiation (continuous)



- About 80% high school students would like science courses given in school.
- Almost of students have visited museum, zoo (about 90%), art museum (57%) and public library (72%) but chance of visit scientific institute is very little.
- They have no chance to visit nuclear power plant.

Conclusion on the joint survey

- ❖ In general, knowledge of High school students in Vietnam about radiation is quite limited because radiation has not been taught in high school textbooks carefully.
- ❖ Results of this joint survey have reflected understanding and interests of high school students in radiation.
- ❖ However, obtained results are a little higher than in fact because the Viet Duc High school is one of the most excellent high schools in Hanoi.
- ❖ There are many items asked in the survey that are written in school textbooks, except Q3-1, Q3-2, Q3-4, Q9-2, Q9-11, Q9-12, Q10 and Q11

3. Conclusions

- ❖ Public Information Activities mentioned play an important role in improving concern and knowledge of the Vietnamese public on nuclear energy.
- ❖ It is strongly believed that PI activities are a necessary and important part of a long-term national nuclear program of the country.
- ❖ International Co-operation, and Co-operation with FNCA member countries, particularly, is an important factor helping us to achieve understanding and acceptance of nuclear power of the public.