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## Expert: Gov. needs to do more with Internet

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A communication expert says the internet needs to be better employed to inform the public further about the government's nuclear safety measures.

The Japanese government held a meeting in Saga prefecture on Sunday to explain about safety measures being implemented in order to resume operations of a nuclear power plant in the area to local residents.

NHK asked Miki Saijo, professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology, her opinion of the government's information distribution effectiveness. The meeting was broadcast live on the internet.

She said the use of the net should be viewed as a success as more than 1400 comments were sent to the government immediately after the meeting.

But Saijo says the purpose of using the internet should have been made explicit and the government also failed to explain why only 7 citizens were chosen to attend the meeting. Thus she believes the medium cannot replace the conventional local assembly where area residents are invited to participate on site.

Saijo says the government should research the number of people who saw the live broadcast and post all the questions, opinions and answers on its homepage, making more effective use of the internet.

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