Communication among workers is considered essential for building up safety culture. Every worker has his or her own awareness of danger in their work or measures to work safely. To share the information about the risk or safety among workers contributes to raise the level of workplace safety and to foster the safety culture of the workplace.

Risk information or experience had been shared by chat in the free time or waiting time at the workplace. But today this kind of communication seems to be reducing. We conducted an inquiry to reveal the actual conditions of communication about risk in a railway company. The results indicated that the change may be that the time to have a light conversation in a workplace is decreasing and that differences in age among workers are expanding.

Therefore, with the aim of increasing communication about the ideas of risk and safety, and of building up safety culture, we developed the Accident Round Table Discussion (ARD) method based on action research executed at a train drivers’ work site. The ARD consists of 3 steps, 1. discussion about the accident situation, 2. discussion about accident causation, 3. discussion about accident prevention. It is not necessary to do all the 3 steps. You can combine 1 or 2 steps with any other training in accordance with the situation.

As we try to reproduce informal chat using this method, it is important to discuss frankly various aspects of an accident such as the experiences or similar experiences of the accident, its seriousness, its causes and measures to prevent it, by the facilitation of the leader. And there is no “Exact way”. To make carefree discussion, the facilitator chooses the theme and the member before the discussion.

This method is very easy to prepare and it requires no extra cost. What all the members of the discussion have to do is just to join the discussion and enjoy it. Having enjoyable discussion facilitates sharing risk information and enhances safety awareness.

This method has been implemented in several railway companies and has a good reputation.