

STOP JAPAN FROM EXPORTING NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS and STOP JAPAN FROM SUPPLYING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH ODA PROCESSED FOOD FROM THE CONTAMINATED DISASTER AREA

An Appeal from Japanese women for a secure world for our children
without nuclear power plants and without fear of radioactive contamination

Please spread word about the Japanese government's policies and thinking about Nuclear power plants and radioactivity

Our November 4th Petitions.

On November 4th we plan to petition the Japanese government in an effort to stop "Exporting Nuclear Power Plants Overseas" and to stop "Exporting ODA Processed Food from the Contaminated Disaster Areas of Great East Japan Earthquake".

Background

1. Stop Japan from exporting Nuclear Power Plants to newly developing countries

The Japanese government (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) is still going ahead with plans to export Nuclear Power Plants to Vietnam, Lithuania, Turkey, and Jordan even though the accident of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear power Plant is not yet under control.

We learned from this accident that these nuclear power plants are not 100% safe and if a tragic accident occurs, it can completely destroy people's lives. Many residents of Fukushima have been deprived of their lands, houses, jobs, domestic animals and many other things as well. In Fukushima many children cannot play outdoors on the playgrounds because of high radiation levels.

We don't want any more people, and especially any more children, anywhere in the world to experience this kind of thing.

2. Stop the Japanese government from supplying developing countries with ODA processed food from the contaminated disaster areas of Great East Japan Earthquake.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs applied for a budget 65 million dollars for this purpose under ODA (Official Development Assistance) and they are planning to offer processed food such as canned Tuna from disaster areas (mainly Fukushima, Miyagi, Iwate) to developing countries. According to the government, the processed foods will comply with Japan's guidelines for maximum permitted levels of radioactive substances for foodstuffs. However, we worry about the guidelines because after the accident of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant the government increased the maximum upper limit for the radiation levels for water, milk and other drinks to 200Bq/L for cesium (in USA it is 0.111 Bq/liter; WHO standard 10 Bq/L) and 300Bq/L for iodine, and that for food to 500Bq/kg for cesium and 2000Bq/kg for iodine (Codex standard 100 B1/L, in USA 170Bq/L).¹

The struggle over the guidelines goes on. In Japan it is especially the mothers who are requesting the government to reconsider the guidelines.² Mothers and some specialists think that the radiation dosages of the guidelines are too high for children.² In fact, many countries prohibit to importation of food and industrial products from Japan because of radioactive contamination.³ On the other hand, we believe that many African countries, such as Sudan and Somalia, are at risk because they don't have guidelines for radioactive contamination of food and industrial products. In October 2011 the government is going to revise the guideline and radiation limit will be reduced. However, even if the guideline is revised, the radioactive does will not be "zero" and it is only on internal exposure.⁴

Additionally, if the aim is to assist a developing country's economy, it is not a good idea to deliver relief supplies at such high transportation cost all the way from Japan. It would be better to procure the supplies locally or from neighboring countries.

¹ 厚生労働省 HP、別紙、食安発 0317 第 3 号 平成 23 年 3 月 17 日、放射能汚染された食品の取り扱いについて <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/2r9852000001558e-img/2r9852000001559v.pdf>

² 中部大学武田邦彦教授 (ブログ武田邦彦 (中部大学) <http://takedanet.com/>)、京都大学原子炉実験所小出裕章助教「原発は知らない (幻冬舎ルネッサンス新書、著者小出裕章)」、ECRR (European Committee on Radiation Risk、欧州放射線リスク委員会) http://www.jca.apc.org/mihama/ecrr/ecrr2010_dl.htm、人間と環境への低レベル放射能の脅威 The Petkan Effect (あび書房、ラルフ・グロイブ/アーネスト・スターングラス著、肥田舜太郎/竹野内真理 (訳) など) で内部被ばく、低レベル放射能の危険について述べられています。

³ 農林水産省 HP、諸外国・地域の規制措置 (2011 年 9 月 27 日現在) http://www.maff.go.jp/j/export/e_info/pdf/kensa_0927.pdf、経済産業省 HP、諸外国・地域における放射線検査 実施状況等 (鉱工業品分野) 2011/9/21 http://www.meti.go.jp/earthquake/smb/commodities_link_02.pdf

⁴ Govt to cap radiation limit / Report recommends lifetime exposure of no more than 100mSv, The Yomiuri Shimbun, <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T111028005524.htm>

Who we are

Ms Kaori Izumi and Ms Yukie Tokura got to know one another on the Internet due to our mutual interest in the "Women Sit in" action and then we decided to make an appeal on the two issues mentioned above.

Kaoru Izumi, Director of Shut Tomari, Co-Director of Save Fukushima Children Hokkaido; a former staff member of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Southern and East Africa Office, Zimbabwe and FAO HQ in Rome, and UN World Food Program (WFP) Staff member of the Zambia Office.

Website: SHUT Tomari: <http://shuttomari.blogspot.com/>

Ms Yukie Tokura, Representative of STOP! Hamaoka Nuclear Power Plant, a former staff member of a Japanese NGO involved with humanitarian aid projects in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Cambodia and Tokyo.

Website: STOP! Hamaoka Nuclear Power Plant: <http://stophamaokanuclearpp.com/en/>

*The organizers of the "Women Sit-in" action and the sponsors of this petition are NOT the same.

Action "women sit-in": http://d.hatena.ne.jp/onna_suwarikomi/20111025/1319523563

Japanese women will sit-in in front of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry from 27 October to 5 November with the aim of eliminating all nuclear power plants in Japan.

Schedule on 4 November

10:00-12:00 Joining the "Women Sit-in" action in front of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (1 minute walk from A12a exit of Tokyo Metropolitan Kasumigaseki Station)

13:15-13:45 Presenting a letter and petition to the staff of the Cabinet Office and having a short meeting with the staff

13:45-14:15 Moving to the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy

14:15-14:45 Presenting a letter and petition to the staff of Ministry of Agency for Natural Resources and Energy and having a short meeting with the staff

14:45-15:00 Moving to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

15:00-15:30 Presenting a letter and petition to the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and having a short meeting with the staff.

16:00-16:30 Holding a press conference at the Correspondent Club at Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

*The schedule is subject to slight changes.

Contents of Petitions:

Addressed to Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yukio Edano

To be delivered to the Cabinet office and the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy

Contents: Stop Japan from exporting Nuclear Power Plants to newly developing countries

Addressed to Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda and Minister of Foreign Affairs Koichiro Genga

To be delivered to the Cabinet office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Contents: Stop the Japanese government from supplying developing countries with ODA processed food from the contaminated disaster areas of Great East Japan Earthquake

Documents for our press conference on 4 November:

Copies of our petition to the Cabinet office, the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Note:

1. The press conference will be held in Japanese, but we have a staff who can speak in English.
2. Please contact to the receptionist of Correspondents Club of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry by 3 November, if you would like to participate in this press conference and are not a member of the Correspondents Club (Tel: 03-3501-1621).
3. Please understand that if many people would like to participate the press conference, members of the Correspondents Club are given first priority.
4. You can be with us when we meet the staff of the Cabinet Office and the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy. Please contact Tokura (090-4401-8774), if you would like to join us. We will try to accommodate as many people as possible. You can take a photos, but you can't shoot videos during the meeting. This is at the request of the Cabinet Office and the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy. We are negotiating with the Ministry of Foreign affairs to allow a member of the media to be with us during our meeting.

For Inquiries please contact

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English: <http://stophamaokanuclearpp.com/en/?p=78>

Japanese: <http://stophamaokanuclearpp.com/?p=1058>