

## Serious Reality of Fukushima Today

Speech of Yoshihiko Sugii, Doctor at the Fukushima Collaborative Clinic at the November 4 International Workers Solidarity Rally sponsored by Doro-Chiba

### Fukushima Daiichi Severe Accident Caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake

Fukushima's radioactive fallout was roughly 160 times the atomic bomb dropped in Hiroshima. It is a Level 7 severe accident, the same as the Chernobyl accident. Still now, a wide range of Fukushima Prefecture is detected to be highly contaminated areas that are equivalent to Chernobyl's "Mandatory Evacuation Zone" and "Guaranteed Voluntary Evacuation Zone" in Belarus and its surrounding areas.

Over 150,000 people still remain as evacuees from the highly contaminated areas in Fukushima. The Japanese government must clarify its own responsibility for leaking radioactive materials not only over Japan but also over the Pacific Ocean and for making the global environment highly radioactive. Worse still, a huge amount of radioactive water has been pooled every day ever since the 2011 nuclear accident and has repeatedly causing massive radioactive leaks into the sea. The Fukushima nuclear crisis has definitely not been resolved and the emission of radioactive materials is completely out of control. But Prime Minister Shinzo Abe blatantly lied in his speech for the Tokyo Olympic bid, shamelessly declaring, "The situation is perfectly under control." It is quite outrageous that the Japanese ruling class is attempting to restart domestic nuclear power plants and to export nuclear facilities to the world without assuming the responsibility for the nuclear catastrophe.

### High Incidence of Child Thyroid Cancer in Fukushima

The World Health Organization (WHO) has linked the health effect of the Chernobyl accident only to an increase in child thyroid cancer. However, there are reports that the increase in thyroid cancer is detected not only in children but also in adults in neighboring countries of Chernobyl. What is more, there are lots of government reports and medical papers that indicate significant increase of malignant tumor that affects the entire body and also of disabilities or diseases associated with immune compromise. Despite such current recognition, the Fukushima Prefectural Government has made a public announcement at the Oversight Committee for "Fukushima

Health Management Survey" that 59\*<sup>1</sup> of the children who were under 18\*<sup>2</sup> have been diagnosed as "malignant cases" or "cases of suspected\*<sup>3</sup> malignancy" according to the third interim report\*<sup>4</sup> of Ultrasound Thyroid Gland Testing.

\*<sup>1</sup> 27 children received surgery and 1 out of 59 was diagnosed as "benign tumor".

\*<sup>2</sup> The total number of Fukushima children is 360,000. But currently 280,000 children are living in Fukushima. 220,000 children out of 360,000 have already taken thyroid examinations.

\*<sup>3</sup> "Suspected malignancy" is also understood as "cancer" from the medical perspective. "Malignant tumor" is detected at the Testing Biopsy and Cytology".

\*<sup>4</sup> The data from the Third Interim Report of the Committee on November 12, 2013 was added for this Doro-Chiba Quake Report.

Fukushima Prefectural Government made a definite statement: "There are no health effects of the radiation released by the Fukushima nuclear accident"—. The grounds of the argument of the government is that "the instances of thyroid cancer began soaring around five years after the Chernobyl accident" or "Ultrasound Testing instruments have recently been improved in quality and it has become easier to find even a minimal tumor"\*<sup>5</sup>. But the fact remains that child thyroid cancer has increased in Belarus and in its surrounding areas after a year from the nuclear accident. While the child thyroid cancer rate is usually one in a million, Fukushima children's incidence rate of thyroid cancer is one in several thousands. This is really an incredible number. From the epidemiology and medical common sense, it is obvious that this is the radiation effect of Fukushima nuclear catastrophe.

\*<sup>5</sup> At the time of the Chernobyl crisis, ultrasonography was non-fully developed so that it is medically incorrect to compare the situation at that time with that of today.

### Oversight Committee for Fukushima Health Management Survey

The Committee would keep insisting in the future, "these thyroid cancer cases are not related to the nuclear accident" without improving information blockade and imprecise medical survey.

Abe claimed, "the situation (of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant) is under control" while trying to convince members of the IOC to get hosting right of the 2020 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo. He declared, "I clearly state that there has been no health problems whatsoever and will be none in the future." The Committee would never admit the causal relation between the nuclear disaster



International Workers Solidarity Rally

and thyroid cancer bound by the awful statement of Abe.

Therefore, they would insist that as well as thyroid cancer, the radiation-related diseases don't have causal relation on the medical and epidemiological research with the nuclear accident.

The Committee is apparently committing a crime. We must demand thorough disclosure of the information to get an opportunity to openly discuss their reports.

### **Fukushima Collaborative Clinic Opened, Thanks to Donations**

The Japanese government and Fukushima Prefecture promote to return the residents to their homes excepting some part of contaminated area, underlining that radiation level is already safe, for the purpose of restarting nuclear reactors.

Amidst the surging anxiety and distrust of Fukushima residents because of the imprecise practice of ultrasound thyroid scanning done by Fukushima Medical University and the prohibiting of providing the testing results, Fukushima Collaborative Clinic has been set upon last December as "the clinic based on the donations," supported by the people locally and internationally.

In line with the demand of medical treatment to the radiation damage, we have launched the medical activity on the principle of "evacuation, recuperation and medical care."

We are closely related to the movement of evacuation and recuperation to the less contaminated areas.

We are conducting especially precise ultrasound thyroid scanning and striving to detect the radiation damage at an early stage and to protect "collaboratively" the residents' health in the contaminated area.

The effect from radiation, especially from internal exposure, will make a long-term and whole-body impact. So that we can address whatever happens, we have decided to conduct long-term and tenacious medical activity to protect residents' health for several decades.

As well as the medical activity in this clinic, "collaborative" activity is indispensable to reduce exposure for maintaining residents' health.

A large number of workers especially in public sector, including railway workers, are being forced to work in "high-level radiation contaminated area." We should act together with the workers who reject the forced work in radioactive-contaminated circumstances. Let's support the struggle against the work exposed to radiation with all-out effort.

The Japanese government has been "decontaminating" the lands and houses costing a large amount of money. Although the radiation level might become temporarily low due to the "decontamination operation", but it will be eventually high again, because the decontamination on a huge scale in mountainous forests is impossible. It isn't "de-contamination" but "re-contamination". We can only move the radioactive waste to another place or form. We must protect the health of workers against radiation damage who engage in the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi and the decontamination work.

Some workers who were exposed to high doses of

radiation have already ceased to work in the decommissioning of the reactors. They might suffer from radiation damage in the future, so their health management is indispensable.



"Decontamination" of school route in Minamisoma City

Radioactive particles blew away from the road by high-pressure water travel on the wind and cause internal exposure when inhaled



Signboard reads, "Off limits! Provisional depository of radioactive soil"

Huge amount of surface soil and other materials put off by "decontamination" work has no final depository.

It will take several decades to put the Fukushima reactors fully under control. Therefore, we don't admit to restart and newly construct nuclear power plants at the cost of the nuclear plant workers and the decontamination operation workers.

### **Protect Residents around Nuclear Facilities!**

In the area where nuclear power plants are in operation, the malignant tumor of the residents has increased with high rate. For example, a recent study reported that in the U.S. the breast cancer increased significantly in such area. Similar consequences of medical studies were reported in the world.

Not only for the case in accidents but at all times, the nuclear facilities leak and dump radioactivity; the routine health survey or management of the residents neighboring is essential. We cannot eliminate such risk without decommissioning of all reactors.

### **Only Abolition of All Nuclear Plants Saves Humanity**

Nuclear power plants threaten the very existence of humankind. We must say, "Nuclear power plants are

nuclear bombs in our backyard” and “Humanity cannot coexist with nuclear plants and weapons.” It is our urgent task to gather the wisdom of the whole world, to employ every means for decommissioning of the stricken Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant as safely as possible and to abolish and decommission all nuclear plants.

### Stop Adopting the Safety Criteria of ICRP and Other Promoters of Nuclear Energy

According to the decision by the Japanese Government the areas with radiation level of 20 mSv/y or more are designated as “Evacuation Zone.” In this decision, internal exposure is neglected. In Belarus and Ukraine, however, 0.5 mSv/y is the criterion for Evacuation Zone with internal exposure taken into consideration. Japan must learn from the experiences of the Chernobyl disaster. But we should not be influenced by the arguments and decision of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), which has expanded the “safe zone,” totally disregarding human health. The ICRP is a nefarious machine for defense and promotion of nuclear energy. There is no safe threshold for radiation exposure.

### We Continue Our Struggle to Save Health and Life of Fukushima People Victimized by the Nuclear Mafia

In Fukushima Prefecture, 1,500 people died from the tsunami and 200 are still missing. Now, two years and eight months after the Earthquake, however, this death toll is surpassed by so-called “earthquake related deaths”—elder people's deaths on the way of evacuation from their nursery homes by buses, deaths caused by deterioration of diseases in terrible living conditions of evacuees’ temporary housing and suicides or semi-suicides of despaired people because of loss of their livelihood and dead-end situation without hope for return. It is clear: these people have been murdered directly by the nuclear disaster. This is the actual and real situation of Fukushima.

The Fukushima Collaborative Clinic is struggling to protect health and life of Fukushima People victimized by the Nuclear Mafia. We sincerely urge you, people of the whole world, to give your fullest support to our efforts.

Thank you very much.

#### News & Documents

## Huge Opposition against State Secret Act

On December 6, the Pearl Harbor Day, the Japanese Parliament controlled by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and New Komei Party coalition pushed through the State Secrets Act with which they launched another war—war on workers (union busting with despotic personnel control) and war abroad. From this legislation process and through huge protest actions all around Japan, overwhelming majority of people learned the *deepest secret of the state*, “the state is of the 1%, by the 1%, for the 1%.” Even the government’s survey shows 77 % of adults are opposed to the Secrets Act.



Anger of People in Fukushima  
Even Fukushima Minpo, conservative local paper, headlines its article on December 7:

“Don’t Conceal Nuclear Plant Information!”

The Fundraising Committee for Fukushima Collaborative Clinic participates in the protest in Fukushima City shown in this article.



Doro-Chiba protests right in front of the Upper House at noon, December 6



In the evening of December 6, over tens of thousand attend a protest rally at Hibiya Open-air Stage near the Parliament

Japan Times

## Secrecy law protests ‘act of terrorism’: LDP secretary-general

by Ayako Mie, staff writer

Dec 1, 2013

Citizens demonstrating against the controversial state secrets bill are committing “an act terrorism,”

according to Liberal Democratic Party Secretary-General Shigeru Ishiba. In a blog post Friday, he wrote: “...I think the strategy of merely

shouting one’s opinions at the top of one’s lungs is not so fundamentally different from an act of terrorism.” [full article](#)

Japan Times Editorial

## NSC council has dangerous flaws

Dec 1, 2013

The Upper House last Wednesday enacted a law that establishes a Japanese version of the U.S. National Security Council, with the support of

the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito and the opposition Democratic Party of Japan, Nihon

Ishin no Kai (Japan Restoration Party) and Your Party. [full article](#)

Kyodo

## Tepeco expects 1,700 to quit by March

Dec 3, 2013

By the end of next March, Tokyo Electric Power Co. expects 1,700 workers will have taken voluntary retirement since the 2011 start of the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant

calamity, amid uncertain business prospects and pay cuts, according to Tepeco documents.

... it is losing skilled personnel in core divisions, which could further complicate its decommissioning work. [full article](#)

Kyodo

## Japan to say nuclear power is ‘important’ in draft energy plan

December 3, 2013

#\$ The Abe administration plans to say in a draft of the national medium-term energy plan that nuclear power should continue to be “important” in supplying electricity despite the Fukushima nuclear crisis, sources said.

compiling the so Basic Energy Plan before the end of December. The plan will become official after securing Cabinet approval, possibly early in the new year. ...

percent of the nation’s energy needs in 2030 from around 30 percent.

The draft was to be presented Friday to a meeting of a panel tasked with

The previous Basic Energy Plan compiled in 2010 aimed to boost reliance on nuclear power to some 50

After Fukushima, the previous administration led by the Democratic Party of Japan decided on an energy strategy aimed at phasing out nuclear power by the 2030s. [full article](#)

Reuter

## Fukushima water tanks: leaky and built with illegal labor

By Antoni Slodkowski

Thu Dec 5, 2013

Storage tanks at the Fukushima nuclear plant like one that spilled almost 80,000 gallons of radioactive water this year were built in part by workers illegally hired in one of the poorest corners of Japan, say labor regulators and some of those involved in the work.

former bus driver, who was one of a crew of 17 workers recruited in Okinawa and sent to Fukushima in June 2012 - among the thousands of workers from across Japan who have put together the emergency water tanks and stabilized the plant after three reactor meltdowns that were triggered by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

and passed on to work at the Fukushima plant under the direction of Tec, a larger contractor which reported to construction firm Taisei Corp, records show. That practice of having workers hired by a broker but managed by another contractor is banned under Japanese law to protect workers from having their wages skimmed and to clarify who is responsible for their safety.

"Even if we didn't agree with how things were being done, we had to keep quiet and work fast," said Yoshitatsu Uechi, 48, a mechanic and

The Okinawa crew was recruited by Token Kogyo, an unregistered broker,

[full article](#)

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