

Hiroshima World Rally Strikes Back Abe's Scheme for Nuclear Plant Restart and Export

August 21, 2013

International Labor Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba

On August 5 and 6 in Hiroshima, 68 years after the atomic bombing on August 6, 1945, we held rallies and demonstrations to demand immediate elimination of all nuclear weapons and power plants.

August 5 Hiroshima World Rally



The anti-nuke struggles of Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Fukushima joined together in Hiroshima with participation of workers and citizens from all over the world.

The workers from Doro-Mito (National Railway Motive Power Union of Mito), who had recently staged strikes, and from Koriyama Factory Branch of Kokuro (National Railway Workers Union) became inextricably linked, and the struggles

against radiation-exposed works have moved to the next step and started to spread all over the country. Class struggle labor movement binds labor and civic movements together into one, strengthening and expanding international solidarity.

Many local NAZEN (National Conference to Abolish All Nuclear Plants Immediately) groups gathered in Hiroshima.



Miyako Jodai of NAZEN Nagasaki, Nagasaki A-bombing survivor



Chieko Shiina, steering committee member of March 11 Fukushima Anti-Nuclear Power Action and Fukushima Collaborative Clinic.



Atsuko Ogasawara, owner of "Asako House" built in the center of the premises of Ohma Nuclear Power Plant under construction in Aomori Prefecture, is consistently fighting against the construction for 30 years.



A young man from Germany spoke about the struggle against the planned construction of Nuclear Waste Final Disposal Site in Gorleben and the protest action against Grohnde Nuclear Power Plant. "The nuclear mafia is everywhere in the world." "International unity and solidarity is indispensable."



Retired nuclear plant worker and former chief of Nuclear Plant Branch of All Japan Transport General Workers' Union, Seiji Saito



David Rovics is an American singer/songwriter sang "Hiroshima," "Which side are you on" and "Internationale".



Koichi Hashimoto, from Koriyama Factory Branch of Kokuro (National Railway Workers Union), reported the struggle against radioaction exposed works, the struggle just started in his workplace



Shinichi Ishii, president of Doro-Mito, reported on their strike to refuse radiation exposed work. Their struggle has been taken over by Koriyama Factory Branch of Kokuro. "Our struggle linked us with Koriyama Factory workers, and then will spread to all over the country."



The coordinators of the Speculators Watch Korea, attorney Lee Dae-Sun and Hong Sung-Jun, “The people of Korea and Japan should boldly crush the imperialist scheme of dividing us and build up solidarity.”



Masahiro Kawasaki, executive board member of Doro-Chiba, spoke about their struggle against neoliberalism and pledged to promote class labor movement.

Angry Chant Shoots Prime Minister Abe during August 6 Commemoration Ceremony

On the early morning of August 6, a thousand people gathered in the rally and demonstration organized by the Steering Committee of 68th Anniversary of Atomic Bombing—Aug. 6 Hiroshima Grand Action. The participants from all over the country and the world expressed their rolling outrage over Abe and Chugoku Electric Power Company.

At the Commemoration Ceremony held in Peace Memorial Park, angry chant of demonstrators shot Prime Minister Shinzo Abe when he walked up to the stage—“We denounce the attendance of Prime Minister Abe to the Commemoration Ceremony and his acceptance in Hiroshima!” “Mayor Matsui, shame on you!”

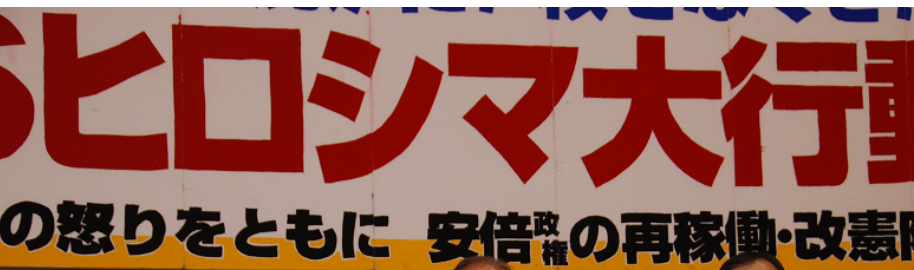


Hiraku Hyakutake, newly elected president of Hiroshima University Student Body declared—“We have at last established an independent student body in order to kick the capitalists of Japan’s Nuclear Mafia out of our university.”



Kaoru Watanabe, member of the Fundraising Committee of Fukushima Collaborative Clinic—“Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Bikini are still ongoing issues. The most important matters for us all are internal exposure and low dose exposure.”

August 6 Hiroshima Grand Action successfully held with 1,250 participants



Doctor Ryojun Yoshida of Koyo Daiichi Clinic, the hospital for the survivors of Hiroshima bombing, and Gen Yamaguchi of its patients' organization. The co-coordinator of August 6 Hiroshima Grand Action and a survivor of Hiroshima A-bombing, Reiko Shimoda. (Right to Left)



Osamu Utsunomiya, president of Ehime Prefectural Workers' Union—"The momentum for staging strikes against the attack of wage cuts on local government workers is increasing." "We will definitely prevent the restart of Ikata Nuclear Power Plant!"



Yasuhiro Tanaka, president of Doro-Chiba: "Our government is completely corrupt. We must definitely topple the current regime."
 "In order to do this, we must at first bring down the control of Rengo (Japanese Trade Union Confederation) and build militant labor unions."
 "Our 30-year struggle of National Railways has almost reached to overturn the whole situation." "Let's make a full effort to gather people together in our November Rally!"

Down with Abe Administration!

Stop Constitutional Revision and War Drive!

Hiroshima Mayor Matsui demands to distinguish nuclear plants from nuclear bombs PM Abe urges nuclear plant promotion

In the press interview with right-wing newspaper, Sankei, just before the 68th anniversary of the atomic bombing Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, demanded to draw a line between nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons. According to him, the former is “designed for necessary energy supply for mankind” and the latter is tools of massacre, embodiment of absolute evil and therefore “these two different issues should not be lumped together”.

He knows sufficiently that nuclear plants are indispensable for the production of nuclear weapons and that Japan already possesses a large quantity of weapons-grade as well as super weapons-grade plutonium equivalent to tens of thousands of atomic bombs through reprocessing of spent nuclear fuels.

The fact and reality in Fukushima is that 12 children have been diagnosed with thyroid cancer and other 15 are suspected. Abnormality of thyroid has been found in 43% of examined children.

Before becoming the Mayor of Hiroshima, Matsui had been known as a tough personality of union busting as a top bureaucrat in the Ministry of Health, Labor and

Welfare and as the chief of Secretariat of the Central Labor Relations Commission. Big capital and the nuclear mafia put him in the position of Hiroshima Mayor immediately after the Fukushima nuclear accident.

In his speech at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6, Mayor Matsui didn't refer to Fukushima disaster parallel with Prime Minister Abe, who totally neglected the issue of the Great East-Japan Earthquake and the nuclear plant accident in his address in the same occasion.

Abe administration is spurring on its drive for nuclear plant export. The government shamelessly admitted the well-known fact of massive discharge of contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the Pacific only after the Upper House election. On the other hand, propagating “utilization of nuclear power facilities” as the major pillar of his “growth strategy” (core agenda of “Abenomics”), Abe and his cabinet members are making sales tour of “package export” of nuclear power facilities with necessary know-how to various countries in these several months.

Deputy PM Aso: “Learn Nazis’ Modus Operandi for Constitution Change!”

On July 29, Taro Aso, Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, made a speech recommending adoption of Nazi's modus operandi.

In face of stormy criticism at home and abroad, the Abe Administration has been desperately trying to deny any intention to admire Nazis. However, if you examine the transcript of Aso's speech, it is as clear as day that his remark cannot be understood other than a strong recommendation to violently suppress opponent's movement (he named it “uproar”) in order to revise the constitution, imitating Hitler's tactics.

“Since April 28, 1952, I have visited the Yasukuni Shrine at least once a year. When did the screaming and uproar against our visit there start?”

In earlier times, everyone including PMs quietly visited there. The uproar was concocted since some time or other. By the media! Once the uproar over Yasukuni visit had been made up, China had no other choice than uproar. Then Korea.

So, we have to do it calmly and quietly. The Weimar Constitution was changed, without being noticed, to the Nazi German constitution. Why don't we learn from their modus operandi?”

In fact, Nazis fabricated the Reichstag Fire, brutally oppressed the opponents and railroaded the Enabling Act—*de facto* suspension of the Weimar Constitution. It

was the modus operandi of the Nazis, which Aso recommended to emulate.

With this praise of the Nazis, he also suggested that Japanese pact with Nazi Germany and launching of World War II was good and justifiable. Although current Japanese situation forces Aso, Abe and their LDP government to strengthen Japan-US Alliance, they would eventually and inevitably escalate inter-imperialist rivalry with the United States and frontally collide with the Post-WWII World System centered around the United States.

However, overwhelming majority of Japanese workers and people, vehemently oppose against the constitutional revision that would change Japan into a belligerent state and deprive workers of their rights.

The class struggle labor movement with Doro-Chiba at the forefront has been indefatigably fighting against and hitting the Achilles' heel of the Division and Privatization of Japan National Railways, which had paved the way to Japanese neoliberalism. Tenacious development of the struggle finally forced the Tokyo District Court on June 29 last year to rule that the firing of 1,047 workers during the Division and Privatization of JNR was an unfair labor practice, which the Japanese justice system had ignored for decades. The ruling class is trembling.

It was the Japanese ruling class's fear and irritation that made Aso to reveal their real intentions.

Head of Cabinet Legislation Bureau Changed

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe recently made a fresh move to revise interpretation of the Constitution, in order to enable a joint operation with the US Forces even when Japan is not attacked. He appointed Ichiro Komatsu as the head of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau (CLB), which provides official interpretation of the Constitution. Komatsu, a staunch advocate of the “Japanese right of collective self-defense,” is not from the CLB as his predecessors but an official of the Foreign Ministry.

On top of it, the Abe Administration has been promoting Japan’s nuclear armament under the pretext of coping with “North Korea’s nuclear threat”. Huge budgets have been allocated for the fast breeder reactor Monju, which can generate super-weapon-grade plutonium, the Rokkasho Spent Fuel Reprocessing Facility, and launching of the H II B rocket. These projects consume extravagant money beyond comparison even with the budget for dealing with Fukushima nuclear catastrophe.

“Revive Court Martial and Impose Death Penalty or 300-Year Imprisonment”

Shigeru Ishiba, Secretary General of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, in the TV program on April 21, insisted on the urgency of a revision of Article 9 of the Constitution and thereby establishment of a “Defense Forces. He further argued that it had to be complemented by military tribunal, which would impose death penalty or life- 300-year imprisonment for disobedience to draft or military mobilization. *Q & A for LDP’s New Draft Constitution* on the LDP’s web site also states establishment of “Defense

Forces’ Tribunal, which is an equivalent of a court martial.”

Let’s share anger of people in Fukushima! Let’s strengthen and expand solidarity in workplaces, in communities and internationally for the struggle to abolish all nuclear weapons and power plants!

Overthrow states that need nuclear weapons and power plants!

News & Documents

Restarting nuclear plants ‘would boost Japan’ report claims

Financial Times

By Jonathan Soble in Tokyo

August 6, 2013

Japan would curb a post-Fukushima rise in its carbon dioxide emissions by two-thirds and lift economic output by 0.25 per cent over four years if it reactivated a majority of its idle nuclear plants, according to a report

by a pro-atomic research group released on Wednesday.

The estimates by the Institute for Energy Economics, which has ties to the industry ministry, architect of

Japan’s atomic energy programme, come as the country considers whether to end a de facto ban on almost all nuclear power generation. [read more](#)

Rating would be most serious action since 3/11 NRA looks to raise leak severity level

Japan Times

by Reiji Yoshida, Staff Writer

The Nuclear Regulation Authority proposed Wednesday raising the severity status of the recent radioactive water leak from a tank at Tokyo Electric Power Co.’s Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant to level 3 from an earlier level 1 on the International Nuclear and Radiological

Event Scale (INES).

The level 3 rating corresponds to a “serious accident” while the level 1 designation means an “anomaly,” according to the eight-level rating system.

The NRA said about 300 tons of

highly radioactive water has leaked from tank No. 5 in the H4 area of the damaged plant. In total, it said, the nuclear materials released into the environment has been estimated at several thousand terabecquerels, converted into radioactive molybdenum 99. [read more](#)

The Fukushima Nightmare Gets Worse

The Progressive

By Harvey Wasserman, August 8, 2013

Just when it seemed things might be under control at Fukushima, we find they are worse than ever.

Immeasurably worse.

Massive quantities of radioactive liquids are now flowing through the

shattered reactor site into the Pacific Ocean. And their make-up is far more lethal than the “mere” tritium that has dominated the headlines to date.

Tepeco, the owner/operator--and one of the world's biggest and most technologically advanced electric

utilities--has all but admitted it cannot control the situation. Its shoddy performance has prompted former U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner Dale Klein to charge: “You don’t what you are doing.” [read more](#)