

Education Ministry Forces Radiation Exposure on Children Fight back the murderous policy!

Education workers must lead the fight for immediate shutdown of nuke plants

The government at last admitted that the seriousness of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster has reached level 7. The situation is worsening day by day.

The myth of “atoms for peace” and “safe and clean energy” has been torn down by the actual development.

Neoliberalism was started in Japan in full swing in 1980s by the then Prime Minister Nakasone through privatization of the National Railways. The same Nakasone has taken the lead of the Japanese nuclear policy since 1950s, which was carried on by every administration thereafter, TEPCO, nuclear plant makers, hired mouthpiece scientists, established opposition parties and labor aristocracy; their cozy relationship resulted in the Fukushima disaster.

And we must emphasize that even before the accident, operation of nuclear plants constituted the diabolic crime, since they cannot generate electricity without

daily and hourly exposure of workers there.



May Day protest in Sendai City—Capital of Afflicted Area

Stop easing of radiation standard to 20mSv/y ! Repeal MEXT’s notification!

April 19, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) notified the Fukushima Prefecture Education Board that the radiation exposure limit in school buildings and playgrounds of elementary and middle schools and kindergartens shall be elevated from 1mSv/year to 20mSv/year. “20mSv/y” has been the standard dose of radiation, which has been applied to an approval of workers’ compensation for leukemia of nuclear plant workers.

The MEXT has also raised the radiation exposure limit for nuclear plant workers from 100mSv/5years (50mSv/y) to 250 mSv/y.

It is a duty in a critical moment for the MEXT to mobilize all necessary measures to protect children who are far more vulnerable to radiation than adults, including evacuation, temporary school closure and so on. However, after unsuccessful attempt to hide the actual level of radiation in schools, they eased the

exposure limit.

The top priority for them is to maintain nuclear power policy at all costs. They use children as guinea pigs. It is a mass murder of children by the government!

April 21, parents from Fukushima questioned official of the MEXT on this point and condemned them: “You are leaving our children in the lurch!” The parents also urged action on the Prefecture and Municipal Board of Educations and school administrations, which had only obeyed the instructions of the MEXT.

The Fukushima Prefecture Teachers Union finally issued the statement against the MEXT’s notification on April 20 and postulated demands to the Prefecture Board.

We should organize our own workplaces and urgently pass resolutions in every union chapter against the MEXT’s notification.

MEXT has been the principal promoter of nuclear plants & nuclear armaments

Japanese nuclear policy has been historically promoted by two lines: one is the group of the Ministry of

Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the electric power companies; and another is that of the Science and

Technology Agency and the Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute. In 2001, during the process of reorganization of the central government ministries and agencies, the Ministry of Education and the Science and Technology Agency were consolidated into the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and thus the MEXT got the jurisdiction over research and development of nuclear technology and promotion of nuclear armaments. Since then, MEXT has been promoting investigation of environmental radiation, control of amount of radiation exposure and compensation for damage. Fast breeder “Monju” under the control of MEXT is not destined for “nuclear recycling” but for production of super weapons-grade plutonium.

The MEXT’s nuclear budget in FY 2011 is 257.1 billion

Also JTU has accepted the nuclear policy

The Japan Teachers’ Union (JTU) issued a statement on the earthquake without any word opposing nuclear power plants whatsoever. The leaders of the JTU has never mentioned huge nuclear budget even when they timidly demanded increase of education budget to reform overcrowded classes. Under their fundamental

Yen—56% of the total nuclear budget, 455.6 billion Yen. The MEXT is the central agency for nuclear policy together with the METI.

Rengo, Japanese Trade Union Confederation, shamelessly playing with blazing lie in [President Koga’s overseas propaganda letter](#): “any density of radioactivity that directly affects the health of the people is not detected, except in the neighboring areas close to the plant. ... as far as Hokkaido in the north and the regions to the west of Tokyo are concerned, there is no affect of the nuclear plant accident. Rather, the damages caused by rumors inside and outside Japan are aggravating and impeding the life of the people and the industries.” Rengo labor lieutenants are profiteering from nuclear plant business together with TEPCO and other electric power companies.

policy of “partnership with MEXT”, the JTU leaders have been collaborating with the government’s nuclear policy.

Speak out and overthrow the misleaders of JTU!
Dismantle the MEXT!

Refuse education for promoting nuclear energy!

In 2002, the MEXT established the fund to subsidize the Nuclear Power and Energy Education Support Program and since then they have forcibly mobilized education workers to promote nuclear education and to brainwash kids with the myth of “safe and clean nuke.” The MEXT together with the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy under METI published supplementary textbooks: *Exciting Nuclear Land* and *Nuclear World—Our Bright Future*.

The Strategic Energy Plan established last year by the DPJ administration states: “Building 9 new or additional

nuclear plants (with the overall plant capacity utilization rate at about 85%) by 2020 and more than 14 by 2030” and underlines “enhancement of education on energy policy.” The elementary science textbooks for the new school year beginning from this April dramatically escalate the promotion of nuclear power plants under guise of “CO2 reduction.”

Both the nuclear policy and the coercion of national flag and anthem are the strategic national policies. In this epoch of global crisis, both are now collapsing.

Shut down ALL nuclear plants NOW!

Make our union militant by promoting 10 million-signature campaign!

People are raging. All the workers are beginning to think out how to live in this critical time. What we need to do now is to create a huge labor movement that can stop nuclear plants. We must overthrow capitalism, which is not capable of surviving without nuclear plants.

Protest actions are spreading all over the world. “Fukushima warns. Shut down all nukes now!”—this is the common battle cry of global working class. Workers of the world, unite and overthrow imperialism that promotes nuclear plants!

Revive militant labor unions! Stop tax increase under the pretext of “reconstruction.” Smash the labor

misleaders who promote so-called “reconstruction movement” that really is a relief for big business! We should create a massive movement against job cuts and nuclear plants!

Promote 10 million-signature campaign initiated by our friends in Hiroshima and Fukushima for immediate shut down of all nukes in our own workplaces, unions, communities!

Organize the nation-wide movement for reinstatement of 1047 fired national railway workers!

The Education Workers Caucus of NCCLU will fight in forefront of the struggle.

April 20, 2011

Protect Children from Radiation Health Damage

Since the terrible disaster of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, the radiation levels remain incredibly high. For the protection of children from health damage by radiation, we have been continuously urging the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and the Fukushima Prefecture Education Board to set guidelines for security measures. On April 19, a month after the catastrophe, the MEXT finally notified "Tentative Guideline on Use of School Buildings and Playgrounds in Fukushima Prefecture". On this "guidelines", however, many anxious voices are raised from the parents and teachers in Fukushima whether their children could really be protected from the radiation effect by the new radiation standard.

The MEXT has set 20mSv/y as the upper limit of radiation levels for school children on April 19. It states that this maximum level of 20mSv/y is based on the recommendation Pub.109 by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) that recommended a tentative safety standard within a band of 1 to 20 mSv/y as reference levels in "Post Emergency Situation". But this standard is set for the general public. It is not for school children. Moreover, it should be noted that the current guideline of regulation is set on 1 mSv/y. The threshold quantity of 20mSv/y is for the planned exclusion zones and also matches the annual radiation exposure dose limit for workers at nuclear plants (the 1990 Recommendation of ICRP). It is apparently very dangerous to adopt this standard to children who are the most vulnerable to radiation. Moreover, when children are exposed to radiation over many years, cumulative radiation will be considerable amount and therefore their risk to cause health damages will be substantial. If we follow the MEXT's guideline, the lives and health of our children would never be protected.

The MEXT just set the exposure limit at 3.8 μ Sv/h for children using a school playground. The radiation dose on school playgrounds, however, varies greatly from place to place. The radiation level is comparably high at side ditches and puddles where rainwaters or dusts gather. Children touch soil or sand and run around school playgrounds. They cannot avoid breathing dusts flying in the air. They sometimes fall on the ground and skin their knees. Then radioactive materials would attach to their wounds. Even the air dose rate is less than 3.8 μ Sv/h, children would receive higher radiation through direct touch with the ground than in the air. There is also a danger of internal exposure.

For the protection of children from health damage by radiation, we strongly demand the rapid control of the nuclear plant accident and the prompt implementation of safety measures to prevent risk to children's health, instead of repeating, "There is no immediate threat to health".

TAKENAKA Ryuichi, President of Fukushima Prefecture Teachers' Union

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20110503a1.html>

U.S. doctors hit Tokyo radiation limit for kids

Kyodo

The Japan Times: Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Physicians for Social Responsibility, a U.S. nonprofit organization of medical experts, has condemned as "unconscionable" the Japanese government's safety standards on radiation levels at elementary and junior high schools in nuclear disaster-stricken Fukushima Prefecture.

The PSR statement directly challenges Tokyo's stance that it is safe for schoolchildren to use school playgrounds in the prefecture as long as the dose they are exposed to does not exceed 20 millisieverts over a year.

The PSR view is also in line with that voiced by Toshiso Kosako, who said Friday he would step down as an adviser to Prime Minister Naoto Kan on the Fukushima nuclear crisis in protest. The University of Tokyo professor urged the government to toughen guidelines on upper limits on radiation levels the education ministry recently announced for elementary school playgrounds in Fukushima.



No-play zone: Students watch as workers remove possibly radioactive soil from the Kaoru Elementary School playground in Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture, on Wednesday. KYODO PHOTO

The U.S. group said in a statement released Friday,

“Any exposure, including exposure to naturally occurring background radiation, creates an increased risk of cancer.

“Children are much more vulnerable than adults to the effects of radiation, and fetuses are even more vulnerable,” it said.

The medical experts group is part of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, which won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.

“(Twenty millisieverts) for children exposes them to a 1 in 200 risk of getting cancer. And if they are exposed to this dose for two years, the risk is 1 in 100. There is no way that this level of exposure can be considered 'safe' for children,” the statement said.

Video: Radioactive Contamination in Schools

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xik6qw_radioactive-contamination-situation_news

25 μ Sv/h

On April 16, 2011

At the gate of Fukushima-City Daiyon elementary School

25 μ Sv/h

Koriyama-city in Fukushima started removing topsoil from school playgrounds in its 15 elementary and middle schools as well as 13 nursery schools

Koriyama-City set its own standards to remove radiation-contaminated soil.

elementary and middle schools / radiation levels of over 3.8 μ Sv/h

nursery schools / radiation levels of over 3.0 μ Sv/h

According to the validation of Koriyama-City, if 1cm (centimeter) of upper layer is removed from soil, radiation dose will decrease by half.

Koriyama-City is going to remove 3cm of topsoil from school playground earth.

The work will be completed in early May.

The Education Minister Takagi: "I think that Koriyama-City is digging its school playground earth based on its independent judgment, but we will investigate the facts".

Tachibana Elementary School in Koriyama-City independently measured its radiation dose and put them on its internet website.

Today's measured values are as follows: All of the places are measured at 1cm high.

	Apr. 4	Apr. 21
1st floor classroom	0.25	0.17
south companionway	0.29	0.28
east companionway	0.29	0.25
2nd floor classroom	0.11	0.10
2nd floor corridor	0.10	0.08
3rd floor classroom	0.11	0.11
3rd floor corridor	0.12	0.12

at the gate	1.04	0.80
in front of the gym	1.27	0.90
central courtyard	2.06	1.82
playground	3.37	2.52

(the measurement unit is micro Sv/per hour)

The Ministry, however, stopped data publication of Tachibana Elementary School.

We have reported the measured radiation data of our school in our website, but the Ministry restricted the publication of measured radiation dose data on internet to only official bodies. Therefore we have to stop releasing our measured data on the website.
(the website of Koriyama-City Tachibana Elementary School)

In addition to that, the Ministry also banned to conduct soil investigation. Without the government's permission, any organization is allowed to investigate radiation data.

We are now under authority's strict control and unable to release any information.

We feel like we are in war time. The government release of radiation dose data is totally different from our private research results.

Since the day of her birth, my baby has been exposed to radiation. I am terribly anxious about her future.

Radioactive contamination situation is intensifying its severity.

Radioactive materials from grass detected
more than 3 times the safety standard in Chiba
(April 28, 2011 Jiji Press)

The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry has set allowable radioactive contamination levels for grass.

On April 28, Chiba prefecture announced that the readings for both radioactive iodine and radioactive cesium had been more than three times the safety standard.

Chiba Prefecture demanded cattle farmers to refrain from putting cows out to graze. According to the investigation of Chiba, radioactive iodine at 230 Bq/kg and cesium at 1110 Bq/kg were detected from grass in Ichihara-City.

In Yachimata-City, radioactive iodine at 90 Bq/kg and cesium at 350 Bq/kg were detected from grass.

Abolish Nuke Plants May 7 Action
Rally and Demonstration

May 7, Saturday from 1 pm at Chiba Central Park

You can find the archive of Doro-Chiba Quake Report: <http://dorochibanewsletter.wordpress.com>

Let's relieve earthquake victims through people's power!

(1) PayPal Account for Donation:

Account Holder: YAMAMOTO Hiroyuki

Secretary Treasurer, International Labor Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba

(2) Donation through the International Humanities Center (IHC):

Alternatively, donation could be made through the international Humanities Center (IHC) in each following way.

1. Checks can be made out to "People's Earthquake Relief Center / IHC" or "PERC / IHC", and mailed to the Coalition for Alternatives to Militarism in our Schools (CAMS) box: PO Box 3012, South Pasadena, CA 91031.
2. Donations can also be made on line at: <http://ihcenter.org/groups/perc>

(3) Bank Account for Donation:

Some or all of the following data 1 to 9 are required to send a remittance to Japan. And if the purpose of remittance is questioned, please reply that remittance is made for relief to the earthquake in Japan through the National Railway Motive Power Union of Chiba (Doro-Chiba).

1. Bank name: The Chiba Bank, Ltd
2. Bank code# in Japan: 0134
3. Branch name: Chuo Branch
4. Branch code# in Japan: 001
5. Branch address: 2-5-1 Chuo, Chuo-ku, Chiba City, Chiba 260-0013, Japan
6. Type of address: Ordinary deposit
7. Account number: 4177605
Address of Account: 2-8 Kaname-cho, Chuo-ku, Chiba City, Chiba 260-0017, Japan
Phone No. of Account: +81-43-222-7207
8. Account name: Kokutetsu Chiba Doryokusha Rodokumiai
9. SWIFT address: CHBAJPJT 001 4177605
Note: One space is needed between Branch Code# (001) and Account number (4177605).