

## JR allows crews to be exposed to 15 $\mu$ Sv each shift Doro-Mito launches a strike to oppose radiation-exposure during work, outsourcing and casualization.

### Don't allow nuclear reactors to restart! Abolish all nuclear plants! Stand up in workplaces across the country!

March 22

Doro-Mito Newsletter issue 522 (Doro-Mito [Japan Railway Motive Power Union of Mito] is a sister union of Doro-Chiba)

Brothers and sisters working in JR! Young workers!

Train crews, running to Hisanohama and Hirono stations of the Joban Line very close to the 20km Zone of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, are equipped with integrating dosimeters during their shifts. Last February, a woman conductor was found to be exposed to radiation of 15 $\mu$ Sv after a single shift on this particular track.

She put forward her demand to the chief of the District Operation Center, "It is terrifying. I want to have babies in future. I don't want to work on the train to Hirono." But the chief flatly refused, "Don't be selfish! The company isn't ready to give you special treatment." Is it selfish of her to say that she



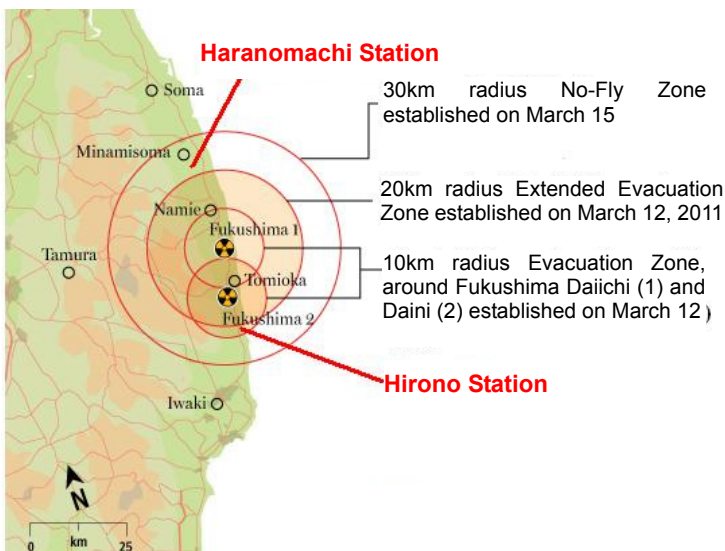
Doro-Mito Strikes on March 23

won't be exposed to radiation?

"You must know there are a lot of commuters from Hirono, including students," he added. "Only you complain about radiation." The Company attacks workers who speaks out against radioactivity, bringing about a split among the inhabitants of Fukushima in order to suppress their anger.

The story doesn't end there. The chief ordered that from that day on the woman conductor be accompanied by a supervisor to keep an eye on her in case she manipulates the dosimeter in order to exaggerate the radioactive danger. This is a filthy attempt to intimidate her into silence.

Alarmed by this incident, on March 14th Doro-Mito demanded management hold collective bargaining over this issue. During questioning it was disclosed that management had never even tried to estimate the possible exposure of railway workers on the JR Joban line and had no intention of controlling the exposure level of railway workers. The only





Virtually no traffic on the mainstreet of Hirono since March last year

thing the management is doing is equipping workers with integrating dosimeters. They have evidently no interest in caring for the safety and security of their employees.

**JR company helps TEPCO and the government evade their responsibility**

Why is JR East Company so eager to restart service on the track near the wrecked nuclear plants at the risk of railway crews' radioactive exposure? The intention is to pave the way for a governmental campaign to force the inhabitants to return to their hometowns and villages, which are highly contaminated, in order to conform to the "declaration of the settlement of the accident" issued by the government only several months after the disaster. Last October Doro-Mito waged a [strike to protest against reopening of the railway service between Hirono and Hisanohama](#) and the forcing of transport workers to run contaminated trains from Hirono to Katsuta Car Center and inspect them. The strike crushed management's demand to inspect contaminated cars. Nonetheless, JR East Company forcibly restarted the service between Soma and Haranomachi (located in the affected area) last December, only to pretend that the accident was under control.

Since the enforcement of the Division and

Privatization of National Railways (in 1987), privatized JR companies have completely and drastically abandoned rail safety and continue to attack militant labor unions for the sake of profit. The consequence is the promotion of nuclear power in criminal complicity with the government and TEPCO at the expense of worker, passenger and inhabitant safety.

**For the creation of a new labor movement to defend the lives and interests of all workers and people**

People in Fukushima are faced with a crude administrative attempt to send evacuees back to

their highly contaminated hometowns and villages through a demagogic campaign of "successful de-contamination," whose aim is to put an end to the issue of the nuclear catastrophe and compensation, allowing the government and TEPCO to evade their responsibility. As a first step, the evacuation zones are going to be scaled down. The government, together with the business circle (especially Keidanren), is intent on reopening nuclear plants which are due to stop all over Japan by the end of April. Moreover, they are promoting the export of nuclear plants. JR companies are spearheading this dirty and dangerous drive.

In line with this move by the government and TEPCO, they dare to let train crews and other JR employees be exposed to radiation. JR companies are completely abandoning their social responsibility to ensure the safety of employees, passengers and inhabitants with their current policy: over-all outsourcing as well as radiation-exposed work. We, railway workers, refuse to be sacrificed by this policy.

Doro-Mito struck on March 23 with the participation of all union members. Let's create a new labor movement that fights for the interests and lives of the working class and all people!

Join Doro-Mito and fight together!

**News & Documents**

**Nuclear Mafia Lawyer to be the next TEPCO top exec**

Friday, April 20, 2012

Kyodo, Bloomberg

**Bailout official to head Tepco**

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda on Thursday tapped Kazuhiko Shimokobe, head of the decision-making board of the public entity that is providing financial aid to Tokyo

Electric Power Co., as the utility's next chairman.

Shimokobe accepted Noda's request.

The 64-year-old lawyer will have to take a leading role in turning Tepco around as it struggles in the aftermath of the crisis at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant. [read more](#)

## Exposing the “No Harm” Mantra

# The Dangerous Myths of Fukushima

March 9-11, 2012

by JOSEPH MANGANO and JANETTE SHERMAN

The myth that Fukushima radiation levels were too low to harm humans persists, a year after the meltdown. A March 2, 2012 New York Times article quoted Vanderbilt University professor John Boice: “there’s no opportunity for conducting epidemiological studies that have any chance for success – the doses are just too low.” Wolfgang Weiss of the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation also recently said doses observed in screening of Japanese people “are very low.”

Views like these are political, not scientific, virtually identical to what the nuclear industry cheerleaders claim. Nuclear Energy Institute spokesperson Tony

Pietrangelo issued a statement in June that “no health effects are expected among the Japanese people as a result of the events at Fukushima.”

In their haste to choke off all consideration of harm from Fukushima radiation, nuclear plant owners and their willing dupes in the scientific community built a castle against invaders – those open-minded researchers who would first conduct objective research BEFORE rushing to judgment. The pro-nuclear chants of “no harm” and “no studies needed” are intended to be permanent, as part of damage control created by a dangerous technology that has produced yet another catastrophe.

But just one year after Fukushima, the “no harm” mantra is now being crowded by evidence – evidence to the contrary.

First, estimates of releases have soared. The first reports issued by the Japanese government stated that emissions equaled 10% of 1986 Chernobyl emissions. A few weeks later, they doubled that estimate to 20%. By October 2011, an article in the journal *Nature* estimated Fukushima emissions to be more than double that of Chernobyl. How anyone, let alone scientists, could call Fukushima doses “too low” to cause harm in the face of this evidence is astounding.

[read more](#)

## How nuclear apologists mislead the world over radiation

Helen Caldicott

guardian, Monday 11 April 2011

George Monbiot and others at best misinform and at worst distort evidence of the dangers of atomic energy.

Soon after the Fukushima accident last month, I stated publicly that a [nuclear event of this size and catastrophic potential could present a medical problem](#) of very large dimensions. Events have proven this observation to be true despite the nuclear industry’s campaign about the “minimal” health effects of so-called low-level radiation. That billions of its dollars are at stake if the Fukushima event causes the “nuclear renaissance” to slow down appears to be evident from the industry’s attacks on its critics,

even in the face of an unresolved and escalating disaster at the reactor complex at Fukushima.

Proponents of nuclear power – including George Monbiot, [who has had a mysterious road-to-Damascus conversion to its supposedly benign effects](#) – accuse me and others who call attention to the potential serious medical consequences of the accident [of “cherrypicking” data and overstating the health effects of radiation](#) from the radioactive fuel in the destroyed reactors and their cooling pools.

Yet by reassuring the public that things aren’t too bad, Monbiot and others at best misinform, and at worst misrepresent or distort, the scientific evidence of the harmful effects of radiation exposure – and they play a predictable shoot-the-messenger game in the process.

To wit:

1) Mr Monbiot, who is a journalist not a scientist, appears unaware of the difference between external and internal radiation. [read more](#)

## Government Seeks to Restart Ohi Nuclear Power Plant

April 13, 2012, New York Times

By MARTIN FACKLER

TOKYO — Hoping to avert potentially devastating summer power shortages, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said Friday that his government would seek to restart two nuclear reactors, in what would be a first step toward ending an almost complete shutdown of the nation’s nuclear power industry.

Mr. Noda declared units No. 3 and No. 4 at the Ohi Nuclear Power Plant in western Japan to be safe based on the results of computer simulations designed to check the reactors’ tolerance of a large earthquake and tsunami like those last year that knocked out cooling systems at the Fukushima Daiichi

plant. The resulting meltdowns and explosions spewed radiation across a wide area of northeastern Japan and the Pacific Ocean in the worst nuclear accident since the one at Chernobyl a quarter century earlier. [read more](#)

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