

Organize International United Action to fight against nuclear power and mass unemployment!

Smash neoliberalism by the unity of working class unions!

September 24, 2012

International Labor Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba

A new tremendous wave of working class uprisings is going on everywhere in the world. In the United States, at the heart of neoliberalism, the education workers in Chicago, strongly united with other working class people, rose up in a mass scale against the onslaught of hard-nosed education “reform” of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, former White House Chief of Staff to Barack Obama.

The working class people are now convinced that the unity and solidarity of workers will surely pave the way for their bright future and that they no longer pin their hope on alternative capitalist political trends brought about by changes of administration. While capitalists are becoming more and more ferocious in face of collapsing neoliberalism, workers are becoming more and more confident that they are the masters of the society.

The Truth of Noda’s “Zero Nuclear Power” Policy

Promoting construction and restart of nuclear power plants and continuing nuclear fuel recycling

The Japanese government recently announced an “innovative energy and environmental strategy” with a target of “zero nuclear power plants operating by 2040”, that was, however, virtually retracted within a few days after the protest from the US and Japan business groups and their labor lieutenants Rengo. The government has decided to continue operation of the reprocessing plant for spent nuclear fuel, though the “zero nuclear power plants” doesn’t need logically nuclear fuel recycling system. The reason of this

In Japan, the current Noda administration is taking aggressive measures to promote nuclear power. Japanese neoliberalism is now exposing its bankruptcy on the last stage. But it is just the result of our huge popular protest. The capitalists are trying to heat up territorial dispute with China and South Korea in order to cause split in working class. If we stand firm to fight against imperialist policies and adhere to our slogan “There is no border between workers”, we will surely break through the capitalists’ intension.

It is time to take an international united action!

We are holding an International Solidarity Rally on November 3 and a National All-out Workers’ Rally on November 4. Please join us in organizing an international united joint action on November 4.

decision is: A nuclear fuel recycling produces high purity [weapon-grade plutonium](#).

On September 15, Yukio Edano, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, approved the construction plan of three new nuclear power plants including Oma nuclear power plants in Aomori.

The government’s “Zero Nuclear Power” policy is an absolute lie!

The police take over the nuclear administration

Boosting of nuclear power by police suppression

The government appointed Katsuhiko Ikeda, a former chief of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, as head of Japan's new Nuclear Regulatory Agency that started on September 19. The police have cozy relations with electric power companies for decades. They have been constantly oppressing anti-nuclear movements. Not only that, the electric power companies have built their own intelligence organizations, offering retired police high salaries to put down protests against nuclear plants. The appointment of Ikeda who stands for such a corrupt relationship as a head of nuclear “regulatory” body because the government has no other way to crack down enormously growing anti-nuclear movement The Japanese



TEPCO security personnel and the plain clothes police intimidate protesters (March 31, 2011)

capitalists are now in such a desperate situation.

Co-opted labor union protests even against the government's lip service "zero nuclear plants"

An accomplice to poverty draft into the battlefield of "irradiated labor"

The leadership of [Japanese Trade Union Confederation \(Rengo\)](#) strongly opposes the "[Zero nuclear power by 2040](#)" even though this government's strategy is merely a lip service. The Federation of Electric Power Related Industry Worker's Unions of Japan (Denryoku-Soren), a leading union of Rengo, at its regular convention on September 4, decided not to support the candidates who voice the "zero nuclear power by 2040", shamelessly stating that nuclear power are "the key electric power supply of our country."

"Non-regular" workers now make up more than 40% of the Japanese workforce. The leadership of Rengo has been helping capitalist policy of casualization of jobs. Nuclear power plants can never be maintained even for a day without creating an awful lot of the working poor and poverty draft of them into the battlefields of "irradiated labor", or labor exposed to radiation.

The struggle against nuclear power plants, the struggle against outsourcing and casualization, the struggle to revitalize militant labor union are one and the same.

Workers fight against outsourcing and casualization, and refuse "irradiated labor" in order to revive labor unions

Doro-Chiba and its sister union Doro-Mito are growing in a struggle against outsourcing and casualization and strikes against radioactive exposure in their workplaces. Now they invest their energy to break down the Japan Railway Company's outsourcing plan of inspection & repair work and yard operation scheduled to start on coming October 1st.

It is a great task of workers to regain unity with their colleagues at their work places and fight head on against the outsourcing plan, the weakest link of the neoliberal agenda.

What we need now is to build up a nation-wide and worldwide network of labor unions that fight back against neoliberalism.

We are holding a November 4 National Workers' Rally with the following demands:

Reinstate 1,047 national railway workers!
Stop the outsourcing plan!
Abolish all nuclear power plants!

Take away casual employment system!

Please give us your endorsement to November 4 National All-out Workers' Rally.

Join us in organizing international united action against nuclear plants and unemployment.



November 6 Rally last year in Hibiya Open-air Stage, Tokyo

Open Letter of Association for Citizens and Scientists Concerned about Internal Radiation Exposure

We strongly protest the Medical Examination System that prohibits thyroid check by the independent institutions. We request to establish a system of early detection and early treatment of thyroid cancer.

Shoji Sawada, president, Association for Citizens and Scientists Concerned about Internal Radiation Exposure
August 9, 2012

To: Ms. Yoko Komiyama, Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare
Mr. Yuhei Sato, Governor of Fukushima prefecture
Dr. Shunichi Yamashita, president of Health Control Center of Fukushima Medical

After the bitter experiences of Chernobyl nuclear disaster, serious concern is mounting over spread of thyroid cancer as a result of Fukushima nuclear plant catastrophe.

In these circumstances, Fukushima Medical University carried out thyroid check of the people in affected

area and recently published its results (as of the end of March 2012) on 38,114 people. It was discovered that 12,460 people (35.3%) are suffering from “nodule less than 5.0mm and cyst less than 20.0mm” and that “186 people need to be checked again because nodule over 5.1mm and cyst over 20.1mm were recognized by the check”. These symptoms are extraordinary and highly dangerous for the children younger than 15 years old.

But the report of the Fukushima Medical University concludes that the total results presented “no serious problem in general.” What a shameless and irresponsible attitude as cancer expert!

Dr. Shunichi Yamashita, vice-president of Fukushima Medical University and the leader of the thyroid examination, demanded by the recent e-mail that the members of Japanese Society for Thyroid Research should refuse the request of thyroid examination by the people of the affected area in local medical institutions. He flagrantly violates the right of patients for medical examination and intends to put all the results and materials of thyroid check under his monopolizing control. This is a crime!

Cancer Control Act of 2007 strongly recommends cancer check as preventive policy. Dr. Yamashita, however, neglects this recommendation and declares “cancer examination every two year is enough for the young people under 20 years old.” It is absolutely groundless. The suspicious children for thyroid cancer should be examined at least every year, for thyroid cancer develops rapidly for children as was illustrated by the painful examples of Chernobyl disaster. Also the regulations stipulated by “Nuclear Plant Disaster Victims and Children Relief Law” (regarding permanent guarantee of health check and exemption of medical treatment costs, etc.) should naturally been observed.

The next problem is the attempt of the health authorities to conceal or monopolize the results and materials of the medical examination. Under the Medical Law, doctors are obliged to present all the results of the medical examination to the patients and also to keep medical records and results of medical exam for five and two years respectively. But Fukushima Medical University under the direction of Prof. Dr. Yamashita has never presented ultrasonic images to the patients or handed over its copies. All the results and materials of medical checks are secretly hidden in the hands of the medical authorities. Such a shameless and criminal behavior should be stopped immediately!

Our final words and conclusions are as follows:

We demand according to the “Nuclear Plant Disaster Victims and Children Relief Law” that the Ministry of Health and Welfare should give Dr. Yamashita a strict directive to conduct according to the conscience of doctor and obey the Medical Law and other regulations.

Our requests are:

- 1) All the results and materials of medical check, especially thyroid examination (blood check, ultrasonography, etc.) should be delivered to the patients or their parents.
- 2) The Health Control Center should follow the regulation to keep the record of medical investigation including ultrasonography and treatment for a long period for its own responsibility.
- 3) The Health Control Center should carry out ultrasonic examination of thyroid cancer also in the low-level contaminated areas for the purpose of comparison with the check results of the directly affected area.
- 4) The letter of Dr. Yamashita on January 16th 2012 to the members of Japanese Society for Thyroid Research to refuse thyroid check should be withdrawn. This letter should be replaced by a new letter that requests all the members of the Japanese Society for Thyroid Research to answer the demands of the affected people of Fukushima for medical examination and treatment immediately and without restriction.
- 5) We demand medical check at least every year for early detection and treatment of thyroid cancer especially for the children who are suffering from extraordinary thyroid symptoms.

We expect your answer to this letter by the date of September 16, 2012.

All the documents, including your answer, will be published to the mass media.

(abridged by the translator)

[International physicians' recommendations for protecting health after the Fukushima nuclear disaster](#)

29 August 2012

FUKUSHIMA/TOKYO “Our most important obligation to the many harmed by the Fukushima disaster is to eradicate nuclear weapons and phase out nuclear power,” says Associate Professor Tilman Ruff, Co-President of IPPNW — International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War after a visit to Fukushima. Thirty physicians, medical students and scholars from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Finland, Israel, India, New Zealand and Australia visited Fukushima yesterday for an investigative tour.

The event was hosted by Physicians Against Nuclear War in Japan. The foreign experts have followed the Fukushima nuclear disaster with deep concern. In the past few days, they heard presentations by Japanese radiation, medical and nuclear engineering experts at the IPPNW 20th World Congress in Hiroshima and experts at a 27 August symposium in Tokyo.

The fundamental processes in nuclear reactors and nuclear weapons are the same. In 1998, IPPNW first took a clear position that on medical grounds nuclear power should be phased out. Nuclear power is unacceptably hazardous to health at all stages, risks catastrophic radiation releases, and is inextricably linked with the production of enriched uranium and plutonium which can be used for nuclear weapons, the greatest and most acute threat to global health.

The expert group made the following **key recommendations** for action to put the health and safety of people first in the continuing Fukushima nuclear disaster:

- People living in contaminated regions should have access to full information on their likely radiation exposures and supported in all possible ways to minimize these. For those with anticipated annual exposure greater than 5 mSv, or more than 1mSv for children and women of child-bearing age, equitable and consistent access to health care, housing, employment and educational support and compensation should be provided if they choose to re-locate. The recent Nuclear Accident Child Victims Law is an important step in the right direction and should be effectively implemented as soon as feasible. All such measures should be based on actual radiation exposure levels and not distance. Every effort should be made to reduce exposures below 1 mSv per year as quickly as possible.
- Early establishment of a comprehensive register of all likely to have been exposed to more than 1mSv of radiation from all sources as a result of the Fukushima disaster. This will include people in prefectures neighbouring Fukushima. This register should be linked with best estimates of radiation exposures since the disaster, and used as a basis for linkage with national data on mortality, cancer, congenital malformations and pregnancy outcome.
- The group expressed concern for the health of the more than 20,000 workers who have worked at the Fukushima Daiichi plant since the earthquake, and the many more who will need to work there over the many decades it will take to decommission the damaged reactors and spent fuel ponds. They were disturbed by frequent reports of inadequate protection of workers and falsely low radiation exposure measurements. A lifetime radiation exposure register should quickly be established for all workers in the nuclear industry.
- There has been regrettable misinformation disseminated, including by senior professionals and in school educational materials, downplaying the risks of radiation. The corrupting influence of the ‘nuclear village’ is widespread. Provision of accurate, independent, timely public information on radiation health is essential.

No effective treatment is possible for the catastrophic effects of a nuclear explosion or reactor disaster. When the imperative to prevent what cannot be controlled is so strong, it is clear that both nuclear weapons and nuclear power have no place in a safe, sustainable world.

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