

Doro-Chiba Quake Report

June 8, 2011/ issue 24

International Labor Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba (National Railway Motive Power Union of Chiba)

Report from an Activist: Petition Campaign in Koriyama

Crash Kan Administration and TEPCO with the Anger of Workers acting with Pride! Abolish All Nuclear Plants by the Unity and Solidarity of Workers!

June 4, 2011

International Labor Solidarity Committee of Doro-Chiba



Petition Campaign in front of Koriyama Stn.
May 22, 2011

On May 22, lots of workers responded to the call of People's Earthquake Relief Center and carried out a signature campaign in front of Koriyama Station (about 32 miles away from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant) in protest against the government's nuclear policy. The workers from Fukushima and neighboring Miyagi Prefectures—the most afflicted areas—appealed to the citizens to join in the movement: “stop all nuclear plants immediately!”

When I called to a man, he instantly came up to me and signed the petition. His address in the petition was Kanagawa Prefecture (near Tokyo).

“For what purpose have you come to Fukushima?”

“To work HERE” he pointed out the words *Nuclear Plant* in the petition paper.

The sixty-year old man told me that he left his house without telling his family where to go because they would surely tell him not to.

I asked, “You know quite well the fatal danger and still go there to work?”

He smiled at me, “Until the age of sixty, I have drunk plenty, smoked freely and fully enjoyed my life. It's enough”.

I insisted, “The government and the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) are continuously exposing workers to very high radiation and we cannot accept it”.

“But the nuclear accident did happen already. Someone has to work to stop radioactive materials from spreading. It's better elder people like me to engage in such a dangerous work. I don't want young ones to work for that. For the government and the company, we are nothing but disposable stuff” the calmly answered.

He had checked up everything about the work at the nuclear plant, fully understood the danger he has to face, and still he had decided to go and work at the Fukushima.

“We earnestly want to revive militant labor

unions and change such society.”

“I know how labor unions have lost their power and consequently the safety at their workplaces. Many years ago the Japan Airlines (JAL) Union was at last defeated, and as a result, Flight 123 disaster (JAL Jumbo Jet crash in 1985 which claimed 520 lives) happened.”

“Together with you, we want to make a world without nuke and war.”

“Absolutely, I agree with you! Try hard! I am behind you all the way!”

Already three months have passed since the worst catastrophe in history, but the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant has been in an extremely severe situation. Though, the workers at the site are trying hard to prevent the situation deteriorate further. The most of those are temporary workers hired by subcontractors or sub-subcontractors or even lower level contractors.

The government raised the standard dose limit

for workers at nuclear plants to 250 mSv/y, which is 5 times higher than the previous dose limit (50 mSv/y). The workers at the wrecked nuclear plant are constantly exposed to limitless radiation and forced to face grave danger of death.

On June 3, TEPCO disclosed (at this late date!) the fact that two nuclear workers have been exposed by over 500 mSv radiation. To make matters even more incredible, the workers were not distributed stable iodine at the most dangerous phase.

It is the workers at nuclear plants who have the power to stop nuclear plants. Through this encounter with a nuclear worker, I even more firmly determined to work for the creation of a world without nuke and war together with nuclear workers.

The only weapon for us is to fight at our workplaces by the unity and solidarity of workers. Let's fight together!

You can find the archive of Doro-Chiba Quake Report: <http://doro-chibanewsletter.wordpress.com>
And Korean, French, and German translations of it: <http://doro-chibanewsletter.wordpress.com/2011/04/07/58>

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).

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