

Report on the campaign against discharging radioactively contaminated wastewater from Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station by TEPCO

We appreciate our friends of the "Abolition 2000 network" for their outstanding support to the people of Fukushima. Last spring, we raised the petition campaign against the "intentional release of radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station" by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) and the Japanese government. Thanks to your cooperation, we collected more than 460,000 signatures domestically and also from the world.

<https://www.abolition2000.org/en/news/2020/06/03/fukushima-radioactive-water-dont-contaminate-the-ocean-sign-the-petition-now/>

We, Japanese citizen's groups/organizations and workers unions had negotiations with the Japanese government many times, piling up the massive amount of petition papers. All-Japan and local Fukushima Fisheries Associations repeatedly expressed strong objections against releasing the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water into the ocean. This wastewater is still containing tritium and other radioactive nuclides. They have been arguing that discharging the ALPS treated water is "breaking a promise." Agricultural and forestry associations in Fukushima also supported the Fisheries Associations. Most of the local assemblies in Fukushima prefectures adopted resolutions of opposition against or concern about releasing radioactive wastewater into the ocean.

[The government and TEPCO promised the Fisheries Associations in 2015 that they would not dispose of the ALPS treated water without understanding by stakeholders. At that time, Fisheries Associations had to make a difficult decision to accept TEPCO's releasing contaminated underground water into the ocean.]

Despite all the strong opposition from the people, on April 13th, the Japanese government decided to release the radioactive wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power stations after two years of preparation. They agreed on the plan in a very undemocratic manner in the emergency declaration of COVID-19 under the direct leadership of Prime Minister Suga. The government says that the ALPS "treated water" is not "contaminated water." They pretend that the problem is only compensation to the fisheries and local industries for their "temporarily" decreased income from "public misunderstanding" on radioactive contamination.

We argue again that discharging radioactive wastewater into the ocean violates the Japanese domestic law on the regulation of nuclear facilities. The disposal of radioactive water into the sea is also against the international laws as London Convention and Protocol which protect the ocean from contamination. We strongly argue that the decision is "breaking a promise" with Japanese people, including Fisheries Associations. It also violates the human rights of all the people who live with the ocean, especially the people of islands living with the blue Pacific Ocean.

We shall do our best to stop their plan of releasing the radioactive wastewater into the ocean after two years.

We hope to have your continuous support for our protest.

Katsumi Furitsu (Chernobyl-Hibakusha Support, Kansai)