

# PEACE BOAT



## FUKUSHIMA SOLIDARITY APPEAL Friday, 17th May 2013

### Preamble

The catastrophic nuclear accident in Fukushima is not a local issue but a global one. It is also an ongoing and constantly evolving disaster that is by no means over. The effects of this disaster continue to be felt by approximately 2 million people living in this highly irradiated area. At the time of writing of this Appeal, none of these affected residents has been officially supported with regard to permanent resettlement.

We<sup>1</sup> gathered on the 79th Global Voyage of Peace Boat<sup>2</sup> to discuss, exchange information and learn about the situation in Fukushima from people who have experienced it 1st hand - as well as to send a message of solidarity to its people.

From this exchange, the delegates concluded that there has been a gross violation of human rights. We appeal for the solidarity of Fukushima residents, mayors of communities dependent on nuclear power, the international community and heads of state.

### Acknowledgement of Suffering of a Nuclear Accident

The Fukushima accident has been classified as level 7 on the INES<sup>3</sup> scale by the International Atomic Energy Agency. However the Japanese authorities continue to refer to it as a natural disaster only, downplaying the responsibility that they, TEPCO, GE, Toshiba and Hitachi have had in designing and building a reactor, in a zone of great seismic activity, that was unable to withstand an earthquake and tsunami and in having underestimated the health risks of radiation. To date, affected citizens have received no compensation for having been exposed to dangerous levels of radiation due to the failure of reactors recognised to have been built on a faulty design.

***Appeal to the Japanese government to publicly acknowledge that the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant was a nuclear disaster and a serious ongoing long-term radiological threat to living beings and the environment.***

### Upholding the universal right to security of person and well-being

Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person" while Article 25 (I) states "Everyone has the right to a *standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family*, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood *in circumstances beyond his control.*" The human security of Japanese citizens affected by the

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1 The participants of the Peace Boat Onboard Conference for a Nuclear Free World, Peace Boat 79th Global Voyage, 12th - 16th May 2013.

2 Peace Boat is a Japan-based NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). It is the organiser of the Onboard Conference for a Nuclear Free World.

3 International Nuclear Event Scale

Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster must be guaranteed by the state. Long-term investigation and record-keeping of medical diagnoses and histories is crucial. To this end, independent and transparent oversight over these processes needs to be established. Doctors in Japan need to have a public mandate to carry out systematic investigations into medical impact of the disaster through longitudinal studies of the individuals affected.

### **Ensuring the swift voluntary resettlement of *all* affected persons in Fukushima**

We firmly believe that exposure to any radiation at all (beyond natural ambient radiation) is a risk to human beings. Currently in Fukushima, residents are being constantly exposed to dangerous levels of radiation. 1mSv/yr was the maximum level regarded as “safe” in Japan prior to the Fukushima disaster. This standard, already a compromise to human health, was deregulated by the Japanese government, as the disaster unfolded, to 20mSv/yr (roughly the amount of radiation to which nuclear power plant workers can expect to be subjected).

***It is the right of those affected by radiation to resettle in a safe environment with all necessary assistance assured by the authorities. We appeal to the Japanese government to revert to its own pre-disaster safety standard of 1mSv/yr, acknowledging the actual number of people requiring immediate assistance for resettlement.***

***We appeal to the Japanese government to provide funding for the permanent resettlement of ultimately, all affected citizens.***

### **Upholding children’s rights through ensuring a safe habitat**

Article 25 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “*Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.*” Children are a particularly vulnerable group. A legal framework for the protection of children affected by the Great East-Japan Earthquake exists but is currently not effectively implemented.

**We demand that the Japanese government take practical and effective measures to implement existing legislation to protect children by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.**

### **Ensuring access to information**

Article 19 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and *to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*” Affected citizens, including the workers at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, are entitled to unrestricted access to accurate and comprehensive information on radiation levels and the evolving situation at the plant from independent laboratories. In contrast to the unacceptable practices with regard to the Hibakusha<sup>4</sup> of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, citizens must have access to their own complete medical records and obtain copies of them.

### **Political participation and inclusive decision making**

Article 21 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.” There is inadequate access by individuals and local authorities to the impenetrable national decision-making process. This would also be the first step in starting a dialogue on alternatives to Japan’s current dependence on nuclear energy and a transition to renewable energy.

**We make an urgent appeal to the Japanese government to take action with immediate effect.**

**We also appeal to the international community to raise these issues at appropriate venues and to responsibly place pressure on relevant authorities.**

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4 Atomic bomb survivors

**We, the undersigned do hereby confirm our support of this Appeal.**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Organisation</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Signature</b>
1	IDOGAWA Katsutaka,	Former Mayor of Futaba Town	Japan	
2	IIDA Tetsunari	Director, Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP)	Japan	
3	SATO Kenta	“Fukushima Conference”, Representative of Iidate Village	Japan	
4	Lena LINDAHL,	Sustainable Sweden Association	Sweden	
5	Andrey Ozharovsky	Nuclear Expert, Bellona	Russia	
6	Alain CORREA	STOP EPR - Penly	France	
7	Olivier FLORENS	Europe Ecology - Les Verts, Councillor of the Canton of Barrioux	France	
8	Erkki MÄENPÄÄ	Anti-nuclear Activist	Finland	
9	Salla KALANIEMI	Anti-nuclear Activist	Finland	
10	Annette PIENING	Former Researcher, Environmental Policy Research Centre, Free University of Berlin	Germany	
11	YOSHIOKA Tatsuya	Co-founder and Director of Peace Boat, Organising Committee Chair of the Global Conference for a Nuclear Free World;	Japan	
12	Karen HALLOWS	International Coordinator, Peace Boat	UK	
13	Anjeli NARANDRAN	Web Reporter, 79th Global Voyage, Peace Boat	Singapore	