

## Urgent Statement Calling for Publication of Hazard Map of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Accidents

Tokyo Physicians, Dentists, and Medical Scientists for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and Prevention of Nuclear Wars (Tokyo Physicians for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons)

We are a group of Japanese physicians working toward the elimination of nuclear weapons in cooperation with International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). We have been consistently engaged in providing medical support for victims of atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Having witnessed the suffering caused by exposure to radioactivity, we are totally opposed to any repeat of such tragedy in Japan.

All Japanese citizens are concerned about the situation in Fukushima and hope for the imminent containment of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The government and the related agencies, however, repeat the same announcement that “the situation remains unpredictable” and that they “will make utmost efforts toward containment.” They have presented little detailed information on hazard assessment. What little they have communicated has been limited to recommendations on a day-to-day basis. No clarification has been given as to what this “unpredictable situation” means. If their “utmost efforts” fail, the outcome will be catastrophic. The nation, utterly unprepared, may once again be struck by disasters.

In the reactors of the affected Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, fissionable material equivalent to at least one hundred Hiroshima-type atomic bombs is stored. In addition, the third reactor holds MOX plutonium fuel, which contains plutonium at about one-tenth of uranium. When regular uranium fuel is used, released plutonium is about 0.02% in density. The level of released plutonium from the usage of MOX fuel, however, far exceeds this. A massive release of this plutonium would mean a catastrophe the likes of which human beings have yet to experience.

It is reported that re-criticality has been prevented so far. Conditions, however, remain precarious: Rods are reported to be melting inside the reactors, containment vessels have been damaged, and repairing the plant’s electric cooling system has turned out to be extremely difficult. On March 30th, the Nuclear Safety Commission announced its view that “The reactor vessels and containment structure in the first, second and third reactors have been damaged.”

The worst case scenario under these circumstances would be as follows: One or more of the reactor vessels and/or containment structure gets damaged and the water level inside the reactor vessel drops. Fuel rods, exposed to the air, overheat. Resulting further spoilage of the fuel rods could ultimately trigger hydrogen or steam explosions. If this

occurs, what would be the worst possible level of radiation release? What is the risk of contamination to the Greater Tokyo metropolitan area?

When such risks objectively exist, the government is obliged to offer to its citizens accurate and detailed information. The concept of the hazard mapping involves an approach to disclose the extent of potential danger to local residents in advance, thereby minimizing the damages. The government, however, has abandoned this obligation.

If the government assesses absolutely no risk of an explosion to reactor containment vessels, the basis for that assessment should be explained accurately and in detail, and the government should stand over its judgment. That would at least free citizens of the concern over the worst case scenario, and allow them to believe in the success of the government's "utmost efforts" toward containment.

If it is not possible, the government should promptly inform the citizens about the worst possible scenario, and provide instructions on preparation and countermeasures. In doing so, the following will be absolutely necessary.

A fundamental principle should be set in place so that expecting mothers, infants, children and their mothers, and youths (both male and female) should be prioritized in escaping to safety. This is crucially important in preventing any possible confusion in a critical situation and in protecting the safety of generations to come. Even if we should come to face the worst accidents and disasters, we should protect at all cost the next generation of Japanese citizens from radiation exposure. All Japanese nationals should adopt this mental approach.

In addition to the government, each municipal community, the police, the Self Defense Forces, mass media, and all citizens are requested to stand with us and start taking prompt contingency measures.

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