

NUKE INFO TOKYO

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☞ Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

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National Rally for A Nuclear Phase-Out Law Held in Osaka



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A national rally for a nuclear phase-out law was held in Osaka on Sept 16 & 17. There was a general meeting on the first day, followed by a march through Mido Suji Ave. On the second day, 10 workshops were held with different themes such as food, energy, waste and the nuclear fuel cycle, and there was a debate with members of the Japan Socialist Party and Shinpo-To. About 3,000 people took part, mainly from Osaka, Kyoto, and Wakayama, with many from Tokyo and further afield. Good progress is being made towards collecting 10 million signatures for a petition for a Nuclear Phase-Out Law. □

Future of Nuclear Energy Still Uncertain After Election

As reported briefly in our previous issue, the recent House of Councilors election resulted in an unprecedented defeat for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and a dramatic victory for the Japan Socialist Party (JSP).

Although the small anti-nuke and environmental groups which put up candidates for the first time in the election were unable to win any seats, the election result was received favorably by people in the peace and environmental movements because they believe there is now a good chance to put a brake on the high-handed industry-oriented policies of the LDP regime.

The situation appears to be very delicate, however, so far as the nuclear energy issue is concerned. With the LDP having lost its majority in the House of Councilors, it is generally believed that the House of Representatives will be dissolved and a general election held soon, most probably during the coming winter. Judging from the result of the Upper House election, there may be some possibility for the opposition parties to come to power through a coalition and the leaders of the three opposition parties, the JSP, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) and Komeito are now eager to hammer out a policy consensus.

Of all the issues on which the three parties are divided, nuclear energy is generally regarded as the most controversial. While the JSP is anti-nuclear at least as stated in its platform, the DSP, supported by the power industry labor unions, is strongly pro-nuclear. In order to come to a compromise on energy policy, the right wing faction of

the JSP, led by T. Yamaguchi, the party's secretary general, is insisting on a modification of the party's platform so that existing nuclear plants can be retained. But this compromise proposal has already touched off harsh criticisms from both inside and outside the party.

When will the general election take place and who will be the victor? Will the present opposition parties have a chance to form a coalition government? The situation is still highly fluid and citizens' anti-nuke movements now have much to do to make politicians take up a more positive stance towards a Japanese nuclear phase-out. □

Aomori Voters Elect Anti-Nuclear Diet Member

Among the newly elected members of the House of Councilors, Takao Mikami has probably attracted the most attention. Mikami stood as an independent candidate in the Aomori electoral district, supported by farmers and citizens resisting the planned Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel facilities as well as by the JSP and prefectural labor unions. His resolute stance against the Rokkasho project won the enthusiastic support of a wide range of voters and he obtained more votes than the two conservative candidates combined. This is the first time since the end of World War II that a conservative has failed to be elected in this traditionally-conservative district. Mikami's victory is certain to have a serious impact on the future of the Rokkasho project.

High Radioactivity Detected in Animal Feed Dry Milk — Is Food in Africa and Asia All Right?

In our investigation involving radiation measurements, we detected high radioactive contamination by cesium in compound animal feeds, of 215, 186, and 110 Bq/kg, as shown in the table below. The feeds were produced between November '88 and June '89, and their principal ingredient is nonfat dry milk. The only concrete facts available on nonfat dry milk are those revealed in an announcement by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) concerning four shipments of nonfat dry milk from Poland and England, which were to be used in animal feed. These shipments, amounting to 650 tons, were sent back due to radioactive contamination in the range of 393 to 1,060 Bq/kg.

Nonfat dry milk for animal feed is by and large used to feed calves and piglets while they are nursing. In Japan, more than seven million tons of fresh milk are produced annually, and approximately 150,000 to 180,000 tons of nonfat dry milk are produced. However, since Japanese-produced nonfat dry milk is high in price, it is used only for human consumption, while Japan relies entirely on inexpensive imported nonfat dry milk for animal feed. In 1988 about 85,000 tons of nonfat dry milk were imported for animal feed, with more than 75% of this coming from highly contaminated regions such as West Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. Prior to the Chernobyl accident nearly 70% of this dry milk was accounted for by imports from New Zealand and Australia. The state of affairs revealed in our investigation also suggests that highly contaminated

nonfat dry milk, which cannot be used in food and is therefore dead stock, is being cleverly strewn throughout the world. Though Japan imports this dry milk as animal feed, there is a great possibility that it is being exported to countries in Africa and Asia as food for human consumption and aid provisions. It is necessary for the citizens' movements in the exporting European countries to carry out even more rigorous monitoring. Additionally, citizens' groups in Japan and Europe who have been conducting measurements should form new network and initiate activities that will make it possible for them to watch not only their own food, but also take on testing and monitoring for radioactive contamination of food brought into regions such as the African and Asian nations which have no nuclear power stations, and cannot secure sufficient equipment for measurements. □

Producer	Cs134+Cs137 total (Bq/kg)
Yukijirushi	25
Kashima	110
Nisshin	78
Nisshin	8
Nisshin	13
Chubu	27
Yukijirushi	215
Kyodo	186
Saturaku	under 5
Kagakushiryō	46
Agri-production	7
Zenno	ND
Honen Oil	ND
Zenrakuren	64
Kagakushiryō	109
Zenrakuren	40

Nuclear Power in Korea

Despite the fact that the nuclear power industry is in decline worldwide, South Korea is to go ahead with the construction of two new plants, nos. 11 and 12 (Yeong-gwang 3, 4) in blatant disregard of safety problems. Furthermore, it has announced a plan to construct 56 more nuclear reactors by the year 2031.

The Korean nuclear power industry is dependent on the US, France, and Canada. The Korean Electric Power Company entered into a contract with the US company Combustion Engineering to construct reactors 11 and 12 and supply them with nuclear fuel. It claimed it chose CE because it quoted a lower construction price and also because the contract enables Korean engineers to acquire the technical expertise to operate nuclear power facilities by themselves in the future. Their explanation, however, was later called into question as it transpired that another bidder, Westinghouse Co., had put in a much lower bid (\$180 million as against \$269 million by CE) and offered the same conditions as regards the transfer of nuclear technology to Korea. It is becoming clear that the choice was influenced by large scale bribery involving both the Korean and US administrations.

Until now, Korean nuclear reactors have abided by the safety regulations of the foreign nations that built them. But this cannot be said of reactors 11 and 12 as CE failed to obtain the safety guarantee which nuclear facilities are supposed to be issued by the US Nuclear Regulatory Committee; the CE models for the planned reactors do not follow the 'Proven Design Concept' and the reactor pressure-vessel and steam generators of the

models were found to be defective. In October 1988, a government inspector raised a question on this issue in parliament. The Director of the Department of Science and Technology, however, answered that he saw no legal problem in proceeding with construction of the reactors; even though the NRC had not given its assent, he said there would not be any trouble provided that some institution similar to the NRC submitted its own safety guarantee for the plan.

Meanwhile, the suspicion of bribery still remains. Growing anxiety and rage is being expressed by a wide range of Koreans who suspect that the enforced construction of the reactors benefits only a few in power while endangering the lives of the public.

On July 30, 1989, Hanguk Ilbo (the Korean Daily News) reported that the 28 year-old wife of a worker employed by a repair shop subcontractor of the Yeong-gwang Power Plant was told by a doctor that her five-month-old fetus had no brain. On June '30, she had the fetus aborted by a Caesarean operation. In November 1988, the same woman had given birth to a still-born baby with no brain. Her 31 year-old husband had been repairing the turbines and condensers of the Yeong-gwang Plants. He, however, had suffered a series of severe head-aches, dizziness, frequent nose-bleeds, darkening of facial complexion and loss of appetite. The rapid deterioration of his health made it impossible for him to continue working.

At the Kori Nuclear Power Plant, a 30 year-old engineer working there for over four years as an electrical repairman died of

Continued on next page

Citizens Participate in Gensuikin Convention

GENSUIKIN (Japan Congress Against the Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb) held its annual convention, to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the atomic bombings, in Tokyo from July 30 to August 2 and thereafter in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This year's convention was especially significant in that it was attended by citizens from various grass-roots organizations as well as by union members and it took up not only nuclear disarmament themes but human rights issues, on the basis that "respect for the individual is the foundation of real peace" (Polish delegate). There were over 40 participants from abroad, representing 16 countries.

In the workshop on "Society Without Nuclear Power," the discussion centered on practical means of achieving a nuclear phase-out. A member of the Swedish Green Party talked about their strategy for phasing out nuclear power in 3 years. Energy saving and conversion to alternative sources were the best methods. Energy consumption could be halved using existing technology.

The party would introduce a new tax system to develop new energy sources, increase the efficiency of energy production, and save more energy.

The German delegates also stressed the importance of changing direction to save more energy and build up alternative energy sources. Energy plans should not be nationwide and centralized, but independent and regional.

The Korean delegate spoke about the situation in Korea, where the anti-nuclear movement has mushroomed in the last year, and is now gearing up to block the construction of 2 more nuclear power plants in Yeong-gwang.

The discussion went on to strategies for coping with the "Greenhouse Effect" and how to communicate with your neighbors on these issues. About 60 Japanese took an active part in the exchange of ideas, and everybody shared in the common awareness that there are no borders in the search for a nuclear free society. □

NUCLEAR POWER IN KOREA

Continued from page 4
stomach cancer on June 9. He was exposed to 1,200 millirem of radiation per week in March, 1988 while exchanging nuclear fuel rods. He was exposed to a similar level of radiation on two further occasions, and insisted repeatedly that this was the cause of his contracting cancer. In October 1988, the 48 year-old foreman of radiation control, who had worked at Kori Plant for 10 years, died of

lymphatic cancer.

When 46 people living in the vicinity of the Yeong-gwang Plant had their blood tested this August, 26 of them showed signs of exposure to radiation such as anemia and a decreased count of white-blood corpuscles. □



Anti-Nuke Who's Who



Our campaign against the Maki Nuclear Plant started immediately the construction plan was announced in 1969. But it was only in 1971 that it started to gain momentum, when residents of the Gokahama area next to the plant site began an all-out campaign. It was then that we were able to buy a small piece of land (165 m²) on the beach, which has become a bridgehead for our opposition to the plant.

In 1977, we decided to convert this piece of land to common ownership with as many owners as possible, and formed the "Joint group of landowners' against Maki Nuclear Plant." This was a turning point in our long drawn-out campaign, because it gave a focus to our activities and gradually created a strong feeling of "solidarity" between the members. "Solidarity" is a word often used by our chairman Mr. Shuhei Shirasaki. It is our solidarity, he reminds us frequently, that has fueled the campaign and enabled us to stop construction of the plant for 20 years.

After forming our group, we worked rapidly to demarcate our land from Tohoku Electric's by building a

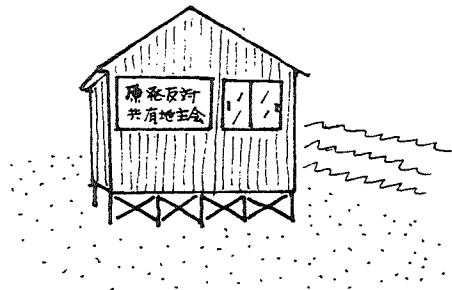
Shuhei Shirasaki and Maki Landowners' Group

road to reach it and erecting our "solidarity beach cottage." It happened that our small piece of land was located right in the center of the planned site.

The Electric Power Company were driven into a corner, and all they could do was to forcibly instigate a public hearing and go through with administrative procedures. They also tried to destroy our solidarity by offering large sums of money to each of our members separately. But their attempt to bribe us ended in failure, thanks to the enduring efforts of Mr. Shirasaki to gain complete trust among our members.

Tohoku Electric and MITI finally realized that they could not get their hands on our land whatever they did. They finally gave up the safety evaluation for the reactor in 1983 and 6 years have now passed. They have postponed plans for construction and start-up each successive year.

On the seashore, scheduled to be embedded in concrete years ago, people come to enjoy bathing in the summer, and strolling in the spring and fall. From now on, we have to face not only Tohoku Electric, but "time" as well. We still have a long battle ahead of us, and we will need solidarity more than ever. We hope to keep our spirits high and, with Mr. Shirasaki, to maintain our struggle for as long as need be. □



Data: Workers' Exposure in 1988

The total radiation exposure dose of nuclear plant workers in Japan showed a slight increase in fiscal 1988. The increase is believed to be due to increased repair work under high radiation levels. The total annual dose in 1988 was 9,839 person rems as compared to 9,612 in 1987. There is a general trend, however, for exposure to be concentrated on subcontracted workers who are mostly employed for very short terms for inspection or repair work in highly radioactive areas. Although the total annual dose has remained at around the 10,000 person rem level in recent years, exposure has increasingly tended to concentrate on subcontracted workers, who now account for about 96% of the total exposure dose. This trend can be clearly seen in the table, which lists the number of nuclear power plant workers exposed to different levels of radiation. Subcontracted workers accounted for 817 of the 819 persons exposed to 1.5 rems or more in 1987 and 854 of the 855 persons exposed to this level in 1988. □

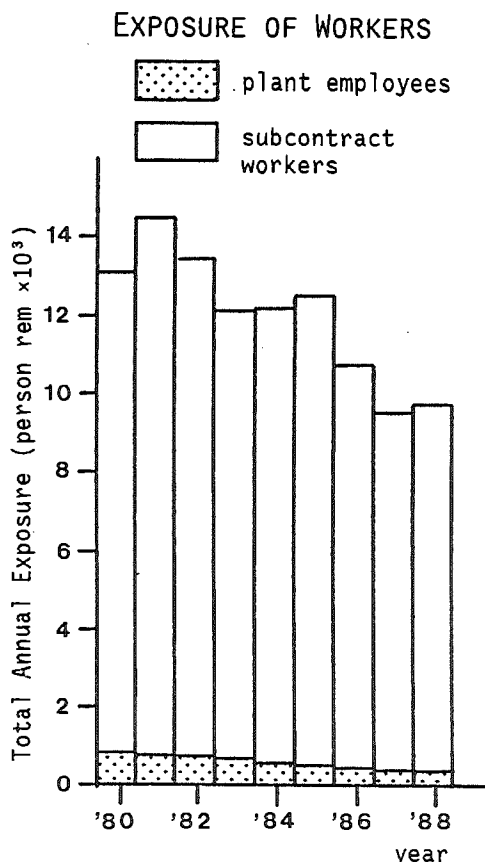


TABLE: NUMBER OF WORKERS AT DIFFERENT EXPOSURE LEVEL

year	kind of workers	<0.5rem	0.5-1.5rem	1.5-2.5rem	2.5-3.0rem	total
1987	plant employee	5,378	124	2	0	5,504
	subcontract	44,657	5,382	736	81	50,856
	total	50,035	5,506	738	81	56,360
1988	plant employee	5,450	116	1	0	5,567
	subcontract	44,334	5,591	821	33	50,779
	total	49,784	5,707	822	33	56,346



Nuclear Issue Revives in Hidaka

Kansai Electric Power Co. plans to construct a nuclear power plant in Hidaka, Wakayama prefecture. When the fishermen's cooperative held a general meeting last March to discuss acceptance of the planned preparatory investigation of the sea, and voted to reject it, that seemed to be the end of the matter. However the issue has now been revived because the town mayor has requested again that the cooperative accept the investigation.

It is stated that this is the "last request" of the mayor, whose term expires in October 1990. As he was elected on a pro-nuclear platform, he is determined to secure a go-ahead for the plan during his term. He has also instructed town officials to conduct a survey of the cooperative members, to find out what they think of the nuclear plants, and to delve into their private and business relations. Consequently he has come under heavy fire for violating their human rights.

Aomori Farmers' Cooperatives Oppose Nuclear Fuel Cycle

More than 20 farmers' cooperatives in Aomori prefecture have this summer adopted resolutions for the cancellation of the planned nuclear fuel cycle facility to be constructed in Rokkasho-mura. This brings

the number against the plan to 50, which is more than half of the total 92 cooperatives, showing there is now widespread opposition to the facility among farmers.

Kamaishi Invites High-Level Waste Disposal Research Facility

Nittetsu Mining Co., Ltd, in Kamaishi, Iwate prefecture, requested the PNC (Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation) on August 1 to invite an "underground research facility" to their site to study the feasibility of high-level radioactive waste disposal. The facility is to study the geological features of the site and underground water at a depth of several hundred meters. They say no nuclear waste will be brought in. However, local residents are very doubtful whether this will be just a research center, and are organizing a campaign against it.

Residents Outside 20km Zone Denied Right to Sue

Citizens of Fukui have brought an administrative suit against the government, demanding that the court acknowledge as invalid the government approval for the building of "Monju," an FBR prototype reactor (280 MW) under construction in Tsuruga city, Fukui prefecture. On July 19 the Kanazawa Branch of the Nagoya High Court reached a decision on the case. Prior to this the Fukui District Court (at the first trial) had rejected the plaintiffs'

demand, claiming that civil suits had already been brought for the suspension of construction and operation. The high court, however, accepted the plaintiffs' appeal, stating that an administrative suit could be brought along with a civil suit.

The high court, however, disqualified the plaintiffs for the peculiar reason that anyone living farther than 20 kilometers from a nuclear plant "has enough time to evacuate." The case will continue, however, since both the residents (plaintiffs), and the state (defendant) have re-appealed and the case has now been brought to the supreme court.

Residents Fear Early Restart of Fukushima II-3

An interim report on the recirculation pump breakdown accident, which occurred in the unit 3 reactor of Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Fukushima II plant (see NIT No. 10), was released on August 11 by a working group of the Natural Resources and Energy Agency. There was nothing new in the report and the breakdown was attributed only to poor welding.

On September 1, work began to recover the metal fragments and powder which were scattered into the core due to the pump breakdown. Tokyo Electric has stated that of more than 30 kilograms of metal fragments and powder scattered into the core, several kilograms of powder has adhered to fuel rods and cannot be removed or recovered. It will take another two and a half years to thoroughly inspect the remaining 744 fuel assemblies (only 20 have been inspected so far).

In order to resume operation as soon as possible, Tokyo Electric is reportedly discussing restarting the Unit 3 reactor without removing the metal powder from the fuel rods. Outrage and anxiety over this move are now spreading among local

people.

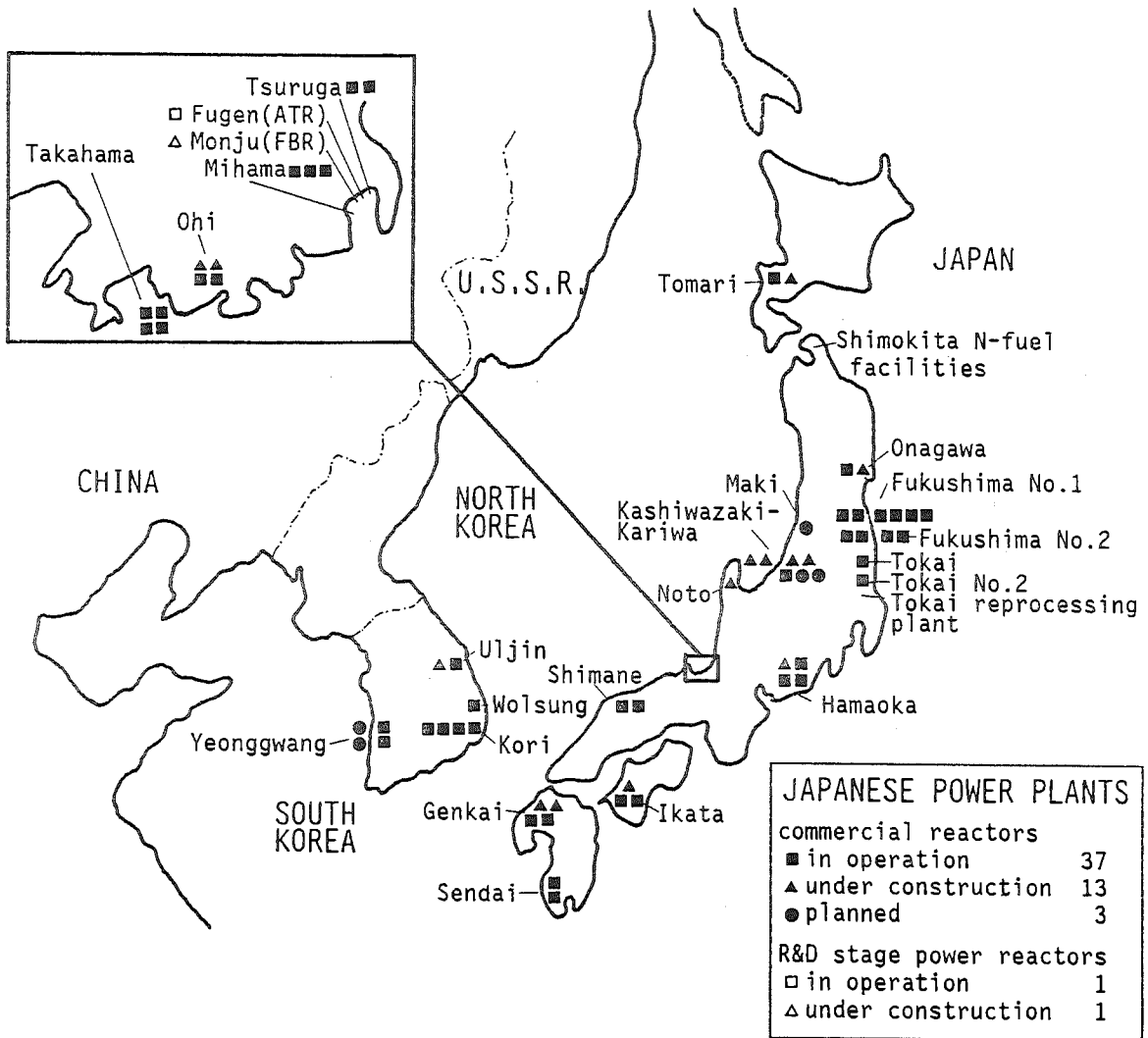
Emergency Drill Held in Fukui

Local government staff in Fukui prefecture, where 12 nuclear plants are located, held an emergency drill on August 25. The drill was designed to test communications systems, monitoring of radioactivity, and the deployment of ambulances and emergency vehicles. The drill was the third of its kind, the last having been held 7 years ago in 1982. The emergency it assumed was an abnormal leakage of primary cooling water in one of the nuclear plants in Tsuruga city. However there was no training for the evacuation of the residents, nor was there any P.R. about the event. Many residents knew nothing about it although they live right next to the plant. This is because the local authorities judge that it would cause anxiety and fear of an accident among the residents if they were to be informed. Other prefectures conduct similar kinds of drills, except that in some cases they involve "selected" residents or employees of the power company acting as pseudo-residents.

The orders are issued from the national government to the prefecture and from the prefecture to the city, and as a result they take time to arrive at the site. On this occasion, it actually took a full 30 minutes after the accident occurred. This is when everything goes according to schedule, so we don't know how long it would take in the event of a real accident.

The mayor of Tsuruga said afterwards, "This drill was carried out under the auspices of the prefecture, so I cannot say it was satisfactory. It is important for us to act on our own discretion and not to be too dependent on the prefectural government."

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN JAPAN AND KOREA



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