

# Press Release: Joint Action to Stop the Dumping (Discharge) of Japan's Radioactive Water into the Ocean

12 April 2023

Endorsed by Joint Action to Stop the Dumping (Discharge) of Japan's Radioactive Water into the Ocean and 783 affiliated groups



*Press Conference held on 12 April 2023*

- We strongly oppose the ocean dumping of contaminated water from Fukushima!
- The Yoon Suk Yeol Administration should firmly oppose ocean dumping and file a lawsuit with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea!
- The Government of Japan should abandon ocean dumping of contaminated water from Fukushima and store it in Japan!

Twelve years after the Fukushima nuclear accident, the situation is far from under control and radioactive damage and contamination continues. Nevertheless, the Japanese Government is preparing to dump radioactive water into the sea this summer.

The Japanese Government claims that contaminated water will be dumped into the ocean for 30 to 40 years in line with TEPCO's decommissioning plan for the Fukushima plant. However, there is no way to remove the melted-down nuclear fuel and the decommissioning of the plant is unlikely to proceed as planned. Thirty years is not the end of ocean dumping of contaminated water, but will be the beginning of hundreds of years of ocean dumping.

Not only that, but although the Japanese Government claims to scientifically and safely manage radioactively contaminated water, it has never revealed accurate information on the type and total amount of radioactive substances contained in contaminated water, nor has it properly studied the 'biological concentration' of radioactive substances.

Furthermore, according to recent reports, there are higher concentrations of contaminated water in the reactor buildings at the Fukushima plant than have been pumped out so far. Currently, human technology has no way to remove the melted-down nuclear fuel. Even if it were removed from the building, there is no way to treat the debris, which emits high doses of radioactivity. There is also no place to further manage the high-dose waste generated in the process of removing radioactive substances from contaminated water by the ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System). Without more land to store this radioactive waste, which emits such high doses that a person cannot continue working for more than an hour, even ALPS will not be able to operate. The Japanese Government should not be talking about dumping contaminated water into the ocean, but should be working on cleaning up the current Fukushima nuclear accident.

Our greater concern is the attitude of the Yoon Suk Yeol Administration. This government is sympathising with the Japanese government's claims without any consideration of the current situation and the state of the Fukushima nuclear accident. According to one report, the Yoon Suk Yeol Administration has not once used the words 'concern, regret or opposition' to the dumping of contaminated water into the sea. In effect, it is condoning the discharge of contaminated water that directly affects the public's health.

If contaminated water is dumped into the sea, the livelihoods of Korean fishermen and fisheries workers would be threatened. More significantly, the dumping of radioactively contaminated water into the ocean is a disaster that threatens the life of the largest marine ecosystem on the planet and the health of the people who live alongside it, and is nuclear terrorism that deprives future generations of the ocean, the treasure house of life. If the Yoon Suk Yeol Administration tacitly approves the Japanese Government's ocean dumping of radioactively contaminated water in its current ambiguous attitude, it will become an accomplice to the same nuclear terrorism as the Japanese Government.

Japan's dumping of contaminated water into the sea is a clear violation of the International Law of the Sea. Therefore, the Yoon Suk Yeol Administration, which has said that the lives and safety of the people are its top priority, should file a lawsuit against Japan with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. At the same time, it should request the Tribunal to take 'provisional measures' to postpone the discharge of contaminated water until the court case against the discharge is concluded.

Civil society has come together to stop the ocean dumping of contaminated water in order to

protect everyone of us. We will definitely stop the ocean dumping of Fukushima contaminated water. To achieve this, we will expand and reorganise the 'Joint Action to Stop the Ocean Dumping (Discharge) of Radioactive Contaminated Water in Japan', announce an action plan to stop the ocean dumping of contaminated water and put pressure on the Japanese government through international solidarity. If the Yoon Suk Yeol Administration does not act to stop the ocean dumping of contaminated water, we will not stop our denunciation of this administration.