



한국 YWCA 연합회

YWCA Korea

## Statement demanding radioactive wastewater from Fukushima Daiichi NOT be released into the ocean

6 April 2023

The Japanese Government announced that it would discharge contaminated water from Fukushima into the Pacific Ocean as early as the end of April. As the Japanese Government tries to obtain international consent for its decision to discharge the contaminated water, the first Japan-South Korea summit meeting in 12 years actively accepted the Japanese Government's demands and even tacitly approved the discharge of radioactive water. The Presidential Office has repeated only the words that the import restrictions on Fukushima fisheries products will be maintained, without disclosing the details of the negotiations at the summit meeting. Our government, which must fulfil its responsibility for the safety and lives of the people, is simply standing idly by as the contaminated water is about to be discharged. If this goes ahead, the damage from radioactive contaminated water will have to be borne by third parties, not the Japanese Government or TEPCO, which operated the Fukushima plant, but by the marine ecosystem of the whole world, including South Korea, and the people of the world who depend on it for their livelihood.

The Japanese Government says that it is safe to put it through a multinuclide removal facility (ALPS), but ALPS cannot remove tritium and other nuclides that are fatal to the human body. The Japanese Government's alternative method of 'dilution' cannot reduce the absolute amount of radioactive materials. The verified stability of the contaminated water, which is divided into 1,066 storage tanks, cannot be trusted either. Japan did not test any of the storage tanks for all 64 radionuclides, but concentrated on only seven, and even this was done by taking only 30 litres without mixing in the high-level sludge waste that had settled on the floor. There are scientifically unexplainable values in this test data, but TEPCO has only given the answer that it does not know, and has joined hands with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to stick to its position that it is safe.

Thus, despite the lack of scientific and objective evidence that the radioactive water from Fukushima is safe, the South Korean Government is standing by and rather showing a

compromising attitude towards the Japanese Government. The discharge of contaminated water is not an area of understanding and compromise, but international radioactive terrorism. If the decision to discharge this water is taken, our oceans will be at risk from radiation and import restrictions on Fukushima seafood will be weakened.

It is time for the South Korean Government to listen to, not the Japanese government, but the voices of those who will be most affected by the release of the contaminated water. The people who live in skin-to-skin contact with the sea, the people who make a living by distributing and supplying seafood, the people who share the rice they put their heart and soul into preparing, all citizens are on the frontline of the discharge of contaminated water from Fukushima.

The YWCA, which has been advancing the cause of justice, peace and life for the past 100 years, recognised the dangers of nuclear power and radiation early on after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident and has continued to take action to protect ourselves from it. We, gathered as women for life, will act to the end to protect the safety of our oceans and food from the radioactive water from Fukushima.

**The Japanese Government must immediately withdraw its plans to discharge radioactive water from Fukushima!**

**The South Korean government should respond to the voice of its citizens, not the Japanese government!**

**The South Korean Government must actively prevent the dumping of contaminated water from Fukushima!**

**The South Korean government must protect the people's right to life and the safety of marine ecosystems!**