

August 3, 2022

Consulate General of Japan in New York

An Open Letter to the Government of Japan from Concerned Groups, Elected Officials, and
Scholars of the World

Dear Prime Minister of Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Economy, Trade, and
Industry,

We, the undersigned, are groups, elected officials, and scholars. We are sending this letter to
strongly condemn the decision of the Japanese government to release more than 1.28 million
metric tons of radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into
the Pacific Ocean. We would greatly appreciate it if you could share this letter with Prime
Minister as well as Ministers and the leadership of the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry
and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo.

We are very concerned that Hitachi's Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) cannot
remove all radioactive materials before the dumping, as the Japanese government has repeatedly
admitted. The contaminated water stored at the Fukushima Daiichi is fundamentally different
from the water coming from a nuclear power plant during a regular operation.

The contaminated water at the Fukushima Daiichi is highly radioactive because it was used to
cool the highly radioactive melted core of at least three nuclear reactors of the crippled plant that
had meltdowns caused by the loss of cooling capability in March 2011. Due to the ongoing high
radiation dose at the facility – as high as 42 Sv/h in a reactor containment vessel that could kill a
person instantly in addition to 5150 mSv/h in the reactor buildings - the radioactive water
accumulated in the Fukushima Daiichi contains an extremely high level of radioactivity.^{1 2}
Radioactive isotopes, such as tritium (H-3) and carbon-14 cannot be isolated from water at all by
the ALPS.^{3 4} Radioactive iodine, ruthenium, strontium, and other radioactive isotopes may also
remain in the water after being processed by the ALPS.

In April 2021, three independent human rights experts appointed by the United Nations Human
Rights Council expressed deep regret at the decision of Japan in a joint statement, saying that the
“decision is particularly disappointing as experts believe alternative solutions to the problem are
available.”⁵ They expressed their concerns that the dumping of radioactive water from the
Fukushima Daiichi “could impact millions of lives and livelihoods in the Pacific region,” and
such dumping “imposes considerable risks to the full enjoyment of human rights of concerned
populations in and beyond the borders of Japan,” and “reminded Japan of its international
obligations to prevent exposure to hazardous substances, to conduct environmental impact

¹ <https://mainichi.jp/articles/20190228/k00/00m/040/233000c>

² https://www.tepco.co.jp/en/nu/fukushima-np/f1/images/f12np-gaiyou_e_3.pdf

³ <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20210413/p2g/00m/0na/031000c>

⁴ <https://read.fulmina.org/en/read/38-fukushima-radioactive-carbon-14-investigation-by-greenpeace>

⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27000&LangID=E>

assessments of the risks that the discharge of water may have, to prevent transboundary environmental harms, and to protect the marine environment.”⁶

We join international calls for the Japanese government to halt its decision to dump radioactive water into the Pacific Ocean. We also request the government to explore alternative safer options of long-term storage at the Fukushima Daiichi or near the site to minimize the health impacts on people and all living things. Such measures will also protect the environment of the Pacific Ocean.

Plans to dilute the radioactive water do not change the quantity of radioactivity that Japan will dump into the Pacific Ocean. Such radioactivity could accumulate in parts of the marine environment and living organisms through bioaccumulation.

We are also concerned about the long-term impacts on the wide Pacific region from the dumping of such a large amount of radioactive water. The Pacific Ocean accounts for a large percentage of the world's fisheries, and many of the communities in the region are dependent on these resources. In addition, many of the states in the Pacific have long suffered from the effects of nuclear testing and illicit dumping of radioactive waste by wealthy nations. We must not forget that these communities have still been living with the threats of remaining contamination exposure, decimated environments, and generational trauma from nuclear testing.

The dumping of radioactive water into the Pacific is also a violation of international law. The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter of 1972 and the London Protocol prohibit dumping of any concentration of radioactive material into the sea.

Fukushima agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and consumer cooperatives strongly oppose the plan of Japan to dump radioactive water into the Pacific. They issued a joint statement regretting that the government has made such an important decision without their consent on April 13, 2021. They emphasized that they will continue to oppose such a decision to the ocean dumping until they were convinced that “not only the fishermen but also the international community and the people of Japan will be able to understand and formulate public opinion in a sincere manner.”⁷ According to a survey by Friends of the Earth Japan to fisheries cooperatives in the six prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Chiba, and Tokyo, almost all cooperatives also opposed the idea of ocean dumping.⁸

There are alternative options as solutions suggested by Japanese civil society groups, engineers, and researchers. These alternatives include existing technologies such as building large tanks at the site of TEPCO.⁹ We were disappointed to learn that these alternatives and suggestions were not even discussed or taken into account.

⁶ Id.

⁷ <http://nonukesasiaforum.org/japan/archives/2154>

⁸ <https://311mieruka.jp/info/en/mieruka-facts/fact-16/>

⁹ <https://www.foejapan.org/en/energy/doc/210413.html>

We, the undersigned, call on the Japanese government to:

1. Withdraw its plan to release radioactive water from the Fukushima Daiichi site into the Pacific Ocean.
2. Listen to the firm opposing voices from cooperative organizations of agriculture, forestry, and fishery businesses and consumers in Fukushima, neighboring prefectures, and concerned groups in the international communities.
3. Stop the repeated use of misleading phrases such as “treated water” or “ALPS treated water” to describe the radioactive water processed by the ALPS. Such water still contains a large amount of radioactive tritium (H-3) and carbon-14, in addition to other radioactive isotopes, such as strontium-90 that could accumulate in bones and cause bone cancer and leukemia.
4. Consider and explore alternative options - such as building large tanks using existing technologies - proposed by the local communities and civil society groups as alternative solutions to this grave issue.
5. Understand your responsibility to properly educate the international community that radioactive isotopes such as tritium and carbon-14 from the crippled nuclear power plant cannot be isolated from contaminated water at all by the ALPS or any other known technologies. Such radioactivity will remain in the radioactive water that Japan will dump into the Pacific Ocean for the next 30 to 40 years.
6. Acknowledge that characterization of tritium as harmless is reckless and counter to the science. Tritium is clinically shown to be more effective at damaging and destroying living cells than gamma rays.¹⁰ Numerous studies indicate that tritium can produce typical radiogenic impacts including cancer, genetic effects, developmental abnormalities and reproductive effects.¹¹ Tritium can cause mutations, tumors and cell death.¹² Studies also indicate that lower doses of tritium can cause more cell death, mutations, and chromosome damage per dose than higher tritium doses.¹³
7. Ensure transparency and protect the right to information by promptly publishing all relevant data and information, both in Japanese and English, regarding the ongoing issues relating to the radioactive water accumulated in the crippled nuclear power plant.

¹⁰

http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/356082/6590573/1271634765367/LeakFirst_FixLater_BeyondNuclear_April182010_FINAL.pdf?token=feLszNy5SIZTzVMoiPdCImZ1h%2Fw%3D

¹¹

<http://static1.1.sqspcdn.com/static/f/356082/6736687/1272554001127/Tritiumbasicinfofinal.pdf?token=SxdS4hntm2CjyrYcDNSH0sfpXBY%3D>

¹² Id.

¹³ Id.

8. Conduct regular public hearings and guarantee the participation of residents, mothers, farmers, fishermen, representatives of civil society groups, and third-party experts independent from the nuclear industry in the decision-making processes related to these issues.

Sincerely,

Initial endorsing U.S. groups as of June 5, 2021

Manhattan Project for a Nuclear-Free World
Alliance for a Green Economy
Alliance for Environmental Strategies
Beyond Nuclear
Brooklyn For Peace
Buckeye Environmental Network
Citizens Resistance at Fermi Two (CRAFT)
Climate Crisis Policy
Coalition Against Nukes
Coalition for a Nuclear Free Great Lakes
CodePINK San Francisco Bay Area (Golden Gate) Chapter
Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
Consequences of Radiation Exposure (CORE)
Don't Waste Arizona
Don't Waste Michigan
Eco-Logic, WBAI-FM
Ecological Options Network, EON
Environmental Justice Taskforce of the WNY Peace Center
Environmentalists Against War
Fukushima Fallout Awareness Network
Fukushima Response
Gender and Radiation Impact Project
Georgia Women's Action for New Directions
Granny Peace Brigade NYC
Green State Solutions
Heart of America NW
Heiwa Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York
Hudson River Sloop Clearwater
Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment
New Jersey Peace Action
New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA)
Nevada Nuclear Waste Task Force
Nuclear Energy Information Service
Nuclear Hotseat

Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Nukewatch
NYC Safe Energy Campaign
Occupy Bergen County (New Jersey)
On Behalf of Planet Earth
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Peace Action Maine
Peace Action New York State
Peace Resource Center at Wilmington College
Proposition One Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Future
Reverse the Trend: Save Our People, Save Our Planet
RootsAction.org
Safe Energy Rights Group (SEnRG)
Samuel Lawrence Foundation
Snake River Alliance
San Francisco Bay Physicians for Social Responsibility
San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace
South Country Peace Group
Stand with Okinawa NY
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Sustainable Energy & Economic Development (SEED) Coalition
Syracuse Peace Council
The Carrie Dickerson Foundation
The Dubuque International Day of Peace
The Ribbon International
Traprock Center for Peace and Justice
United for Peace and Justice
Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance
Veterans For Peace Chapter 9
Veterans For Peace Chapter 34
Veterans For Peace Nuclear Abolition Working Group
Voices for a Sustainable Future
Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus, Inc.
Western States Legal Foundation
Work That Reconnects
World BEYOND War

Additional endorsers as of August 3, 2022

U.S. and non-U.S. groups

(non-U.S. groups are followed by a country name in brackets)

Activist Support Circle
Activist San Diego
Anti-Nuclear Kyungnan Citizen Action (Republic of Korea)

Australian Arts Trust (Australia)
Baltimore, MD Phil Berrigan Memorial Chapter Veterans For Peace
Baltimore Nonviolence Center
Bayan USA
Cape Downwinders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Citizen of the Earth, Taiwan (Taiwan)
Citizens' Nuclear Information Center (Japan)
Coalition for Nuclear Safety
CND Cymru - the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Wales (UK)
CODEPINK
DiaNuke.org (India)
Eclipse Rising
Education for Social Justice Foundation
Enfants de Tchernobyl Belarus (France)
Environmental Rights Foundation (Taiwan)
Feel the Bern - San Fernando Valley
Flyswatter Productions
Friends of Coldwater
Friends of the Earth Adelaide (Australia)
Environmental Jurist Association (Taiwan)
Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility
Green Citizens' Action Alliance (Taiwan)
Green Korea (Republic of Korea)
Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action
Hastings Against War (UK)
Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah, HEAL Utah
Hecate: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Women's Liberation (Australia)
Hereford Peace Council (UK)
HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND PEACE INTERNATIONAL(HUREPI) (Tanzania)
International Association of River Keepers Eco-TIRAS (Moldova)
International Indigenous Youth Council, Los Angeles
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Canada (Canada)
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Germany (Germany)
Korea Federation for Environmental Movements (Republic of Korea)
LABRATS (UK)
Les Artistes pour la Paix (Canada)
Liberians United to Promote Society Safety and Development (LUPSAD) (Liberia)
Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia)
Memory Productions
Mid-Missouri Peaceworks
Mom Loves Taiwan Association (Taiwan)
Montréal KIZUNA (Canada)
Nicaragua Center for Community Action
NOAH FRIENDS OF THE EARTH DENMARK (Denmark)

No Nukes Action
No Nukes Asia Forum (Asia)
No Nukes Kobe (Japan)
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation
Nuclear Free Collective Friends of the Earth Melbourne (Australia)
Nuclear Resister
Ontario Clean Air Alliance (Canada)
Oregon Conservancy Foundation
Pacific Asian Nuclear-Free Peace Alliance
Pax Christi Little Rock
Pax Christi Maine
Pax Christi New York State
Pax Christi Scotland (UK)
Peace Action
Peace Action WI
PEOPLES FEDERATION FOR NATIONAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (PEFENAP)
(Malawi)
Physicians for Social Responsibility Florida
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Kansas City
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine
Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania
Progressive Asian Network for Action (PANA)
Public Watchdogs
Radiation Exposure Awareness Crusaders for Humanity-Marshall Islands (REACH-MI)
(Marshall Islands)
Saints Dymphna & Peregrine Catholic Worker
Samuel Lawrence Foundation
San Clemente Green
Sapporo Catholic Council for Justice and Peace (Japan)
Seattle Fellowship of Reconciliation
Socio-Ecological Union International (Russia)
South Australian Unions Retired Unionists Association (Australia)
Stop nucléaire 26-07 (France)
Starfire Cleaning
Suffolk Coastal Friends of the Earth (UK)
Taiwan Environmental Information Association (Taiwan)
Taiwan Environmental Protection Union (Taiwan)
Taiwan Forever Association, TFA (Taiwan)
Taiwan Not-for-profit Organization Industrial Union (Taiwan)
Veterans For Peace Linus Pauling Chapter 132
Vision GRAM-International
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Women Against Nuclear Power -Finland (Finland)
Youth Arts New York/ Hibakusha Stories

Additional endorsing organizations:
Melbourne Unitarian Peace Memorial Church Inc. (Australia)
MISA4ThePacific (Fiji)
Värmland mot Kärnkraft (Sweden)
Wild at heart Legal Defense Association (Taiwan)

Scholars

(non-U.S. colleges are followed by a country name in brackets)

Dr. Gabriele Dietrich, TTSMadurai (India)
Desmond Doulatram, Social Science Instructor, College of the Marshall Islands (Marshall Islands)
Haruki Eda, Rutgers University
Elena Egusquiza, Antioch University Los Angeles
Norma Field, Ingersoll Distinguished Service Professor Emerita, University of Chicago
Pete Jones, Scholar, University of Delaware
PheGiao Lim, Professor of Chemistry, Tunghai University (Taiwan)
Dr. Syukuro “Suki” Manabe, The 2021 Nobel Laureate in Physics, Senior Meteorologist, Princeton University
Dr. Christopher Misciagno, MD
Yuki Miyamoto, Professor, DePaul University
Inesha Mazini (Solomon Islands Climate Action Network), Research Student, University of Tsukuba (Japan)
Ethan Nguyen, Researcher, California State University Fullerton
Linda Richards, Senior Instructor, Oregon State University
Yasushi Uchiyama, Professor Emeritus, University of Tsukuba (Japan)

Elected Officials

Anhoyong An, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Jun Ho Cheon, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Kang Wook Choe, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Hye Young Choi, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Jong Yoon Choi, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Betty Dumas-Toto, District Elected Los Angeles County Democratic Committee Member
Song Gap-Seok, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Ink-pyo Hong, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Young Huh, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Unha Hwang, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Jae Ken In, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Hyeyeong Jang, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Yong-gi Jeon, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Sung Joon Jin, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Oseop Jo, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

Cheol Hyeon Ju, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Chounsook Jung, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Chung Rae Jung, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Pil Mo Jung, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Tae-ho Jung, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Cheon Junho, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
MinJung Kang, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Eun Mi Kang, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Dong Min Ki, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Honggul Kim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Kyunghyup Kim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Kyung Man Kim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Sang-hee Kim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Seungnam Kim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Woni Kim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Yongmin Kim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Min Jung Ko, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Insook Kwon, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Hae Silk Lee, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Hyung-Seok Lee, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Jaejung Lee, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Jaemyung Lee, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Jang-Sub Lee, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Dong Ju Lee, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Soo-jin Lee, Member of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Sungman Lee, Member of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Tahney Lee, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Yongbin Lee, Member of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Hyungbae Min, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Insoon Nam, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Dongyong Seo, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Sam-Seok Seo, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Youngkyo Seo, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Dong Kun Shin, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Junghoon Shin, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Sangjeung Sim, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Byung Hoon So, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Ok Joo Song, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Jungsuk Yang, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Kyung Sook Yang, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Wonyoung Yangyi, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Mee-hyang Yoon, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Young Chan Yoon, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Youngdeok Yoon, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea
Kwan Suk Youn, Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea