

**Forum on Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Power:
“Ten Years after Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident -- Fukushima Today”, August 3, 2021**

The forum was held under the theme: “Ten Years after Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident -- Fukushima Today”, moderated by MIYAZAWA Yoko (Board member, Japanese Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions – MIN-IREN).

At the outset, TAKESHITA Takeshi (board member, National Confederation of Trade Unions - ZENROREN), as the coordinator of the forum, reminded us that this year’s World Conference was taking place in a new context with the TPNW coming into effect. However, he emphasized that the challenges involving nuclear power plants continued to be important and the risks that persist might escalate even to a nuclear war. He pointed in particular to the intensification of U.S.-China confrontation and to the Suga government’s attempt to take advantage of the emergency situation in Taiwan. Finance minister Aso stated that Japan should exercise the right to collective self-defense and participate in real combat in the event of an armed clash, considering it as an existential crisis for Japan. He stressed the need to tackle the problem of nuclear power plants and called on the participants to further strengthen the movement to achieve both the abolition of nuclear weapons and Zero nuclear power plants.

The main report was made by WATANABE Kanichi, a local assembly member of Minami-Soma City (Odaka district) of Fukushima Prefecture. The gist of his report is as follows:

“Prime Minister Suga in December 2020 stated that ‘the recovery of Fukushima is now in the final stage’. Minami-Soma City stretches between 10 km and 38 km north of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant, the theater of the unimaginable disaster that happened ten years ago. My constituency, Odaka district, is small enough to fit entirely within the 20km-radius from the plant. The areas, including Minami-Soma City, once designated as “forced evacuation zones” or currently under “evacuation order”, are far from “having recovered”. In fact, they have not even finished restoring farming lands devastated by the big quake and the tsunami. It is the hope of every resident there that the nuclear power plant accident will quickly and smoothly be brought to an end and that everything will return to the way it was before.

Nevertheless, the plant accident is not over at all. On the contrary, it is impossible even ten years after to figure out how the melted fuel debris remaining in the reactor

can be safely retrieved. The cooling water, which went through the reactor core and became contaminated with radioactivity, mixes with underground water and continues to accumulate in huge water tanks. As all the tanks available for storing contaminated water are likely to become full in two years' time, the SUGA Cabinet, at a meeting of relevant Cabinet Ministers on April 13 this year, decided to "discharge the radioactive water into the ocean". The Minami-Soma City Council immediately reacted to this by adopting unanimously a resolution condemning the Cabinet decision to release polluted water into the sea and demanding the withdrawal of the decision. The Council sent this resolution to the Government. We believe that the choice of discharge into the ocean undermines the perseverance of many people, including fishermen and farmers in the prefecture, who have worked so hard to recover safety and confidence in their products. It will create division among these people and cause further damage by harmful rumors.

The State and TEPCO take it for granted that contaminated water should be dumped into the ocean. But if a large tank is installed in the sea, it will be possible to safely store the radioactive water for 40 years to come.

Radiation, whether it originated from nuclear weapons or from power generation (which is promoted as being "peaceful use"), causes serious long-term damage and harmful impacts on all living things, including humans, as well as on the environment. We will work with you until these two evils are eliminated from the earth".

The following people presented reports from the communities hosting or campaigning against nuclear power-related facilities:

- Aomori: TANIZAKI Yoshiharu, General Secretary, Forum against the construction of nuclear fuel cycle installations
- Miyagi: SUTO Michiko, Miyagi Network of women for protecting children from radiation contamination and for conversion to renewable energy
- Fukui: HAYASHI Hirokazu, General Secretary, Fukui Forum of residents' campaigns on the problem of nuclear power plants
- Ibaraki: OGITANI Shoko, board member, Ibaraki Prefecture Gensuikyo
- Kagoshima: TAIRA Yukio, prefectural assembly member

After these reports, a part of the video "Fukushima, Spring 2021 -- Current situation and challenges ahead" (produced by Fukushima Reconstruction Center) was shown to the participants.

Prof. IHARA Satoshi, professor emeritus of Tohoku University gave a lecture as an expert, entitled, “Already ten years; still ten years; but only ten years since the nuclear plant accident”. He described the present state of nuclear power generation in Japan and the nation’s future nuclear energy policy as well as current problems and challenges of nuclear plants. He also called for a nationwide debate to envisage a society with zero nuclear plants.

In concluding, Takeshita summed up the session, saying that the discussion was fruitful in line with the session’s theme: “Nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants: Ten Years after Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident -- Fukushima Today”. He urged the participants to build on what we learned in the session, especially in the coming general election campaign in autumn to develop campaigns to achieve a Japan joining the TPNW, a Zero nuclear power plant society and a shift in Japan’s energy policy.