

Fukushima Farmers have risen up in unity!

“Give Back Our Livelihoods!”

“Give Back Our Village, Our Whole Life!”

May 20, 2011

Doro-Chiba International Labor Solidarity Committee

On May 13, the Japanese government and the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) admitted that the core of the Fukushima Daiichi No.1 had gone into a full meltdown almost immediately after the March 11 earthquake. All fuel rods had been melted and fallen to the bottom, and the molten pool of radioactive fuel had burned a hole through the bottom of the reactor vessel. Part of it leaked into the environment. The TEPCO also announced that it started to use boric acid in the reactor cooling water for the Reactor 3 to prevent re-criticality from happening. All three reactors and four spent nuclear fuel pools are out of control. The situation has remained serious for more than two months.

Thus about 100 thousand residents around Fukushima Daiichi are forced to evacuate because of a huge amount of radiation leakage. Two cities and nine towns face the danger of annihilation. In addition to that, more than a million people who are living in the center part of Fukushima prefecture including Fukushima city will also be forced to evacuate sooner or later. It is totally intolerable that 300 thousand school children in Fukushima are exposed to gigantic radiation every day. There is no moment to lose!

In such circumstances, the farmers of a whole village resolutely rose to action, following the courageous action of the mothers of Fukushima to protect their children. They are the evacuees of Iitate Village. The residents of Kawamata Town and Minamisoma City joined in the struggle. At last the affected people by the



Protest in front of Tepeco Head Office in Tokyo, April 26



Iitate villagers, April 29

nuclear disaster in Hamadori Coast Region (the area where the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant stands) got a rebel stronghold.

On April 26, people of Iitate Village held a rally to protest against the government. Their raging voices are as follows:

“Our people have strived hard to develop the poorest village in Abukuma Mountains as a famous village for its beef feedlots. Alas! The nuclear accident destroyed all our efforts for a long time in an instant. The government repeated,

“You are safe, no need to worry”. And no measures were taken at all. But suddenly on April 20, our village was officially designated as an area of forced evacuation. All during that time, we, including our children, have been continuously exposed to the high level of radiation. To defend the management of TEPCO, the government abandoned us. The Japanese government and the TEPCO have full responsibility for the nuclear accident. Our burning anger is directed violently against the government.”

“25 years have passed since the Chernobyl accident but the affected people still cannot go back to their own villages. It is impossible and absurd to imagine that we could clean up all radioactive materials of Iitate Village of 250sq km (97sq mi) by a vacuum cleaner. Our village has mountains, rivers, meadows and farming lands with air. The scholars say irresponsible things such as the damaged soil can be replaced with healthy soil. Incredible!”

“Our village is being divided and the villagers are now breaking up. We can never accept it. We don’t mind whether it is inside or outside Fukushima. The government should prepare for us just the same kind of place like Iitate Village and let us live there. We shall get back our village! We must make the government promise us before we evacuate from our village.”

The people from Minamisoma City and Kawamata Town joined in the rally. They also raised the voice of resentment.

“Minamisoma City is located within 30 km of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant, where villagers were instructed to stay indoors a little before, is now designated as the area to prepare for evacuation. Now supplies of electricity, gas and water are restored and we can get all products required for daily life including gasoline. In spite of this, we cannot receive our grandchildren in our homes. We cannot carry on our business. We are cooped up



Fukushima Prefecture

in the area separated from others by the transparent (invisible) barrier (of radiation). Our district is now going to be eliminated by our own state called Japan.”

“Brothers and sisters throughout the country, please try to know what is happening in our area. It is quite unreasonable and outrageous situation. The nuclear accident is a man-made disaster. The news of the nuclear accident is reported every day. But it is quite shameless and unacceptable that the voices of numerous people who demand to stop nuclear plants are totally neglected. We are boiling with anger. Our last resort is to expect on mounting angry voices demanding to stop nuclear plants from all over the country. It helps us from despair.”

“Dear our friends of Iitate Village, you are ordered to evacuate under the government’s directive. Please be united and consciously take your future alternative, be smart and think real hard how to build your new Iitate Village. Your yielding efforts give us hope and courage.”

The resolution was adopted at the rally. The coordinator concluded, “There are many who think it still not enough, but lets’ start from here”.

“Now spring has come, but an incredible amount of radiation is beating down on us. One and a half months have passed since the March 11, and we have experienced various feelings such as anger, indignation,

resentment, and so on. We should get back our Iitate Village where we will be able to hear happy voices of children again. We resolute as follows:

1. End the nuclear accident as early as possible!
2. Implement promptly the planned evacuation!
3. Restore our Iitate Village to original state and return it to us!
4. Compensate sufficiently for the future of our children!"

At a briefing session on May 11, the villagers furiously condemned the government and the TEPCO and pursued their full responsibility.

“The government should hire our whole village and take full responsibility for all things in our village. Take care of our cows and other cattle, meadows, farm lands, machines, and mountains, rivers, air and everything”—this was the overwhelming demand of the villagers.

The specific written demand was adopted, and the village officials and the agricultural cooperative leaders decided with firm resolve to press ahead with the direct negotiation against the government. The residents decisively confirmed that they would never fall back on the Act on Compensation for Nuclear Damage, because this law was enacted for the defense of the interest of electric capitals.

At the rally, a violent anger of farmers was boiling up and the voice of their resentment was raised; “Give back our livelihoods!” “Give back our village, our whole life!” When the planned evacuation starts, the village will be divided and the villagers are going to be forced apart. However, the battle against the government and the TEPCO has been eventually started. No one can suppress and eliminate the uprising of the angry farmers.

On the same day of the farmers’ rally, May 11, the mothers of Fukushima again went to the Fukushima Board of Education for the protest action. It is the struggle against the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology who recently raised the maximum

level of radiation exposure for children to 20mSv/y. Their movement is spreading widely in Fukushima.

On May 13, one of the temporary workers dispatched to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant was killed. He was left untreated for about two hours after having had a heart attack and eventually died. Only one full-time doctor is allocated in the workplace of extremely high radiation level where thousands of workers are engaging in the dangerous work. Their workplace is 20 km away from the place where ambulances are allowed to drive into. Such a poor medical system means to let the workers die if they become ill.

The TEPCO capital has been gaining limitless profits by monopolizing electric power industry, ignoring all regulations of safety and security at workplaces. Its limitless gigantic profits are based on the brutal forced labor and miserable working conditions of temporary workers. The struggle of nuclear plant workers, mostly temporary workers, will surely be initiated with a slogan, “let us live a human life”.

On May 15, it is revealed that the Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry had announced officially in its report of 2009 as follows: “the probability of the nuclear fuel core damage caused by the tsunami of over 7 meters is 100 %”. It means the government had expected the “unexpected”!

The Fukushima nuclear accident is an unprecedented organized crime committed by Japanese imperialism and the TEPCO in history! It is inevitable that the cry of “expropriate the expropriators” will spread like a tidal wave of fire throughout the fields.

We have to expose the fact that the main culprit is the Japanese imperialism’s nuclear power policy intending to secure its position as a potential nuclear-armed state in the world. The world supremacy after World War II was established through atomic war race started by atrocious bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the fierce competition in nuclear development. Both nuclear armaments and nuclear power policies are the key of world domination by imperialism after World War II.

We call on the working class people of the world.

Now in Japan, the struggles of the inhabitants in regional and local communities are evolving around workers, farmers, fishermen and mothers, striving hard to overcome the disastrous situation and huge pressure of the

Fukushima nuclear accident.

Let's rise up to stop and abolish all nuclear power plants in the world by the unity and solidarity of all working class people of the world!

And we shall step forward to defeat the nuclear ruling society!

You can find the archive of Doro-Chiba Quake Report: <http://doro-chiba-newsletter.wordpress.com>

Let's relieve earthquake victims through people's power!

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Alternatively, donation could be made through the international Humanities Center (IHC) in each following way.

1. Checks can be made out to "People's Earthquake Relief Center / IHC" or "PERC / IHC", and mailed to the Coalition for Alternatives to Militarism in our Schools (CAMS) box: PO Box 3012, South Pasadena, CA 91031.
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