

Statement from Japanese Diet Members

Evacuation / Protection of pregnant women and pre-school age children

To Prime Minister Naoto Kan:

1. Pre-school age children and pregnant women, who are vulnerable to radiation, should immediately be evacuated beyond the 30-km exclusion zone of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant

(At this time, the government instruction is to shelter indoors for those within the 20 ~ 30-km zone)

2. The evacuation zone, limited to a 20-km zone, should be drastically increased.

At present, the Prime Minister's instructions on evacuation and sheltering indoors from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident remain as follows:

- ① Evacuation of residents within a 20-km radius of the Daiichi Nuclear Plant (March 12th, 18:25)
- ② Evacuation of residents within a 10-km radius of the Daini Nuclear Plant (12th, 17:39)
- ③ Sheltering indoors for residents within a 20 ~ 30-km radius of the same nuclear plant (15th, 11:06)

As this shows, the evacuation zone has not been extended beyond the 20-km zone set on March 12. What is particularly worrisome is that pre-school age children and pregnant women, who are vulnerable to radiation, still remain sheltering indoors within the 20 ~ 30-km zone. The evacuation of pre-school age children and pregnant women within this zone should be made a priority. Even at 100-km, far beyond the 30-km zone, radiation has been detected in tap water, milk, vegetables, etc. The contamination is becoming serious.

While instructions for extending the evacuation zone remains absent, a series of grave incidents have occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant: damage to the containment vessel at reactor No. 2; fire in the spent nuclear fuel pool at reactors No. 3 and 4; increased pressure in the containment vessel at reactor No. 3 on the 20th; and near implementation of releasing high concentration of radiation (dry venting). Dry venting would result in the release of radioactive iodine, which has serious impact on pre-school age and unborn children, in the amount of 100 times present releases. Given the continuing danger, measures to ensure the safety of the citizens are pressing. Since the initial stage of the accident on the 11th, radiation continues to be released from the

damaged buildings, vents, and other areas.

The contamination of vegetables shows that radiation has actually reached areas even far beyond the 30-km zone. On the 15th and 16th, radiation levels 400 times normal were detected approximately 50-km away in Fukushima City. Because no evacuation instruction has been given by the government, people have been unable to leave their schools and workplaces, and have been left in this way for 10 days. Restricting the evacuation zone to a narrow area is resulting in “immobilizing” people, preventing those who wish to evacuate from doing so. Meanwhile, foreign governments are instructing their citizens residing within the 80 ~ 120-km zone to evacuate.

Pre-school age children and pregnant women who are vulnerable to radiation should immediately be evacuated beyond the 30-km zone. I strongly urge that the evacuation zone should furthermore be extended and that the securing of evacuation routes, accommodation of evacuees, etc. should be fundamentally improved at a policy level.

[Member of the Lower House Member of Upper House] (circle one) 3/___/2011

Name:

Organizations calling for Diet member signatures:

* Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

Akebonobashi Co-op 2F-B, 8-5 Sumiyoshi-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

TEL: 03-3357-3800 FAX: 03-3357-3801

* Rethinking the Aging Fukushima Nuclear Plants (Fukuro-no-Kai)

c/o AIR Joint office, Ginrei-kaikan 405, 2-19 Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

TEL: 03-5225-7213 FAX: 03-5225-7214

* Green Action

Suite 103, 22-75 Tanaka Sekiden-cho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto

TEL: 075-701-7223 FAX: 075-702-1952

* Osaka Citizens Against the Mihama, Oi and Takahama Nuclear Power Plants (Mihama-no-Kai)

Seiko Building 3F, 4-3-3 Nishitenma, Kita-ku, Osaka

TEL: 06-6367-6580 FAX: 06-6367-6581