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Respectfully Submitted to Prime Minister Naoto Kan

From:

Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations
Chairperson, Tsuboi Sunao
Chairperson, Taniguchi Sumiteru
Secretary General, Tanaka Terumi

Petition Regarding the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Power Plant Disaster

We survivors, having experienced the historically unprecedented events of the atomic bombings, trust that the government and Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) will do everything in their power to provide aid to victims of the nuclear power plant accident and restitution for damage caused by said accident.

However, while it is true that in this rare occurrence an earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster happened simultaneously, we lament that the government and TEPCO focus narrowly on the immediate response without forming an all-encompassing policy, leaving important issues unaddressed.

Given our many years of practical efforts towards securing relief and support for atomic bombing victims because of our own experiences sixty-six years ago and the hardships we have endured with every aspect of our health, emotional trauma, and livelihoods since then, we survivors now call upon you to put into effect immediately necessary policies for the current victims.

Based on our own experiences, we offer the following proposals.

We urge the government and TEPCO to earnestly put these measures into place.

1. Issue Victim of Disaster Identification Papers to all victims and evacuees of the earthquake, tsunami, and radiation leaks.

At the time of the atomic bombings, government authorities, including police officers, worked tirelessly to issue victim identification papers. Later these papers were extremely helpful in establishing recognition of survivors.

As time passes, the victims of this disaster will disperse and efforts to establish who is a survivor will become more difficult.

Please have a column in the identification papers that indicates the disaster victim's status (including those who are as of yet unaccounted for) and the movements of victims after the disaster.

Of course, we urge the government to put into place aid and reconstruction measures, but having a full and accurate grasp of the current situation requires devoted efforts toward this fundamental initial step.

2. Issue Health Booklets to victims of the Fukushima Nuclear Plant accident and provide state-funded comprehensive health tests several times a year.

We atomic survivors have been suffering for more than sixty-six years.

It is rare that illnesses or conditions caused by radioactive material become obvious within a short time of exposure. Rather, they usually emerge after much time has passed. The government and TEPCO must bear the responsibility of regular health check-ups and medical treatment for the duration of the victims' lifetimes.

Moreover, we demand that you give every person who is risking his life by working in the nuclear plant a Health Booklet in order to monitor health issues.

The government and TEPCO must take responsibility for safety measures for all of those who followed the evacuation perimeter advisory or evacuated on their own accord. You must make plans according to the worst-case scenario.

3. Keep evacuation centers open for as long as possible to assist with the livelihoods and health of the victims of the disaster. Put into place policies to help orphans of the disaster.

After the war, we saw many orphans of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and general wartime orphans roaming the streets, and it brings us much grief to see that this disaster too has created orphans. We appeal to you that special consideration be given to policies towards children of the disaster.

4. Provide proper information regarding the damages of radiation, and while dispelling the public's anxiety, work to stop discrimination toward victims of the disaster based on misinformation.

5. Convert current energy and electric policies that rely on the nuclear power model to renewable research, development, and implementation.

At present, in regards to current nuclear power plants, the three principles of peaceful uses of nuclear power, namely transparency, civilian control, and autonomy, must be maintained, and while preparing for the worst-case scenario, you must work out a plan to ensure the highest level of safety.

6. Learning from the seriousness of this nuclear power accident, pursue the abolition of nuclear weapons. Discard the notion that military might can secure Japan's safety, adhere to Article 9 of the constitution, and commit to human co-existence through the prioritization of peaceful and safe diplomatic policies.

7. TEPCO must take responsibility for all aspects of the accident and compensate for damages incurred.

This petition was submitted to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Economy Trade, and Industry, the Minister of Health, Labour, and Welfare, the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, and Tokyo Electric Power Company.