

Fukushima: An Ongoing Nuclear Disaster

In March 2011, following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, one of the world's worst nuclear disasters unfolded at Fukushima nuclear power station, 160 miles North East of Tokyo.



Courageous workers inspect the damaged reactors in 2011

Radioactive Contamination of Land, Air, and Sea

An attempt to clean up the Fukushima Prefecture involved 105 cities, towns and villages. 20,000 workers cleaned rooftops, streets and gutters house by house. Decontaminated areas have been recontaminated from rain over forests and mountains. Billions of bags of unwanted radioactive top soil and debris have been dumped. Radioactive caesium is at high levels in over a sixth of Japan and there are contaminated pockets across Tokyo.

To avoid eating contaminated food, families are having to check radiation levels of their meals. The Japanese Government has no answer to the question: **How do you clean up towns and countryside, fields and forests?**

Fish is an important food in Japan. The Pacific Ocean is contaminated, damaging the livelihoods of fishermen as well as harming wildlife.



Three nuclear meltdowns caused massive problems on the site and in the surrounding area.

The effects on health and welfare were widespread but hidden. Children are particularly vulnerable to radiation.

Families broke up as men stayed to clean up the radiation whilst women and children moved away. The 160,000 evacuees lost their homes and their jobs.

The owners of the power station, Tepco, concealed the problems to give a false sense of security. The Japanese Government has avoided collecting data on public health to conceal the true picture.

At the same time, there was a legal clampdown on journalists and health workers who are not allowed to report to the public the extent of the health problems. Genetic defects have been observed in many forms of wildlife.

Power Station Problems Persist

Engineers working at Fukushima are in uncharted territory. There is no text book to follow to clean up after the meltdowns. Nobody knows how to fix the problems, make the area safe or predict the true extent of the damage.

Although Tepco is trying to solve problems, it has continuing failures. It doesn't know how much melted down fuel there is or where it is. Coupled with this, the thousands of workers needed to clean up the power station have limited exposure time due to high radiation levels.

The Economic Problems for Japan are immense

There are huge support and compensation costs for evacuees, so the government are forcing people back to areas that they say have been decontaminated.

Japan has lost exports as countries are not buying their foods and fish. There are huge financial costs in cleaning up the power station and the surrounding area. Costs due to Fukushima are affecting economic status of Japan in global markets.

For more on Fukushima and also nuclear power in the UK, visit our website:



*Anti-nuclear protest march in Japan on 10th April 2011
Photo (cc) Matthias Lambrecht*

There is a growing problem of contaminated water as there are a thousand storage tanks some of which are already leaking. Water used to cool the melted fuel amounts to 400 tons of contaminated water leaking daily into the sea, as it has since 2011. There are still high radiation levels on site.

What can we do?

Write to the Japanese Embassy:

We can urge the Japanese Government not to restart any of the closed nuclear reactors.

Lets develop safe, clean Renewable Energy sources to replace risky, costly Nuclear. No return to coal!

**Embassy of Japan
101-104 Piccadilly
London
W1J 7JT**

StopHinkley.org