

We appeal for the expansion of the evacuation area to 50km radius and the immediate cease of the operation of Hamaoka nuclear power plant.

As we were afraid, the disaster of reactors hit by an earthquake has happened.

On March 11, at 2:46pm local time, the gigantic earthquake struck Tohoku area, north-east Japan. The consequent huge *tsunami*, causing massive damage and casualties, has brought the uncontrolled situation at Tokyo Electric Power's (Tepeco) Fukushima nuclear plant, the crisis of which is at present going toward the worst. A huge amount of radiation is already measured around the place, and we are worried about the influence upon the people there.

The government issued an evacuation order to the residents within 20km radius. People within 30-40km radius, however, have begun to evacuate at their own will. We appeal to the government: especially, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children should be given the first priority. If the reactor explodes, it will bring on a panic. Public facilities are beginning to open for refugees in several places. In Tokyo, public facilities have already begun to accept refugees, and we hope that more and more places should be open for them.

We *Chernobyl Children's Fund, Japan*, established by Hirokawa Ryuichi, photojournalist, began fund-raising in 1991, and have developed various supports to the victims in Ukraine and Belarus, with special emphasis on helping children. It is 25 years since the Chernobyl disaster, but children born after the calamity still suffer from serious, even fatal diseases.

The broadcast says, "The worst case, if it should happen, would not become so bad as the Chernobyl." We also do hope that that horrible situation like the Chernobyl will not occur. Still, it is too late when the thing does happen, how small its possibility may be. We appeal for the total cease of all reactors in Japan. Amongst all, Hamaoka nuclear plant should be stopped at once, where "Tokai earthquake" is likely to happen to cause another nuclear crisis.

We, who have long supported victims of the Chernobyl, know deeply that the nuclear disaster is not only a local nor a national calamity but a worldly and endless trouble. Japanese government and the electric companies should open all the information immediately, and ask for international aid and support at once.

It is children who suffer the first and the most. We must not repeat what happened at Chernobyl.

Chernobyl Children's Fund, Japan

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