

Fukushima Booklet Committee Position Paper

The Fukushima Booklet Committee considers the risks posed by nuclear power plants to be disaster risks, and is clearly opposed to policies that refuse to acknowledge these risks (such as the “safety myth”). As advocated in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, we have the responsibility to actively work towards reducing disaster risks and creating a safer and more secure society for the next generation. From this perspective, we believe it is necessary to learn from the past, and to actively disseminate the lessons learned in Japan from the Fukushima nuclear disaster to people around the globe, in order to create a better future. We sincerely hope that through such activities, an awareness of the risks posed by nuclear power plants can be promoted amongst the citizens and governments of countries that are considering nuclear power, and in countries and regions in which nuclear power plants already exist, that the risks faced by residents can be reduced.

We strongly hope that Japan will stop its dependence on nuclear power as soon as possible. However, the decision whether to build nuclear power plants or not lies with the people of each country. We hope that people around the world can learn from the mistakes of Japan, which was at the mercy of the “safety myth,” fully understand the risks and sustainability issues at hand, and make decisions regarding energy policy based on broad agreement.

The following are the concerns held by the Fukushima Booklet Committee regarding the risks posed by nuclear power.

1. Waste

The final disposal method for spent fuel and radioactive waste in Japan is not yet decided. Even if one of the disposal methods currently under consideration is selected, it is not possible at this stage for the government of any country to guarantee the management for tens of thousands of years.

2. Risk of a different magnitude

Whether hazards are natural or man-made, regardless of the cause it is impossible to reduce the probability of an accident to zero. Past nuclear

disasters demonstrate that the environmental, health and social damage and impacts are not limited to a single region, but are long-lasting and on a global scale.

3. Nuclear power and nuclear weapons – two sides of the same coin

Despite being referred to as the “peaceful use” of nuclear power, it is technically possible for the spent fuel produced in nuclear power plants to be diverted into nuclear weapons. Furthermore, current international standards such as those set by institutions like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are not powerful enough to prevent them being violated by governments or non-state actors.

4. Human rights

Even without the occurrence of an accident, nuclear power plants create many “*Hibakusha*”, or people affected by radiation. Many nuclear plant workers are in the situation of being exposed to radiation, facing serious health risks, and it is this labor that perpetuates the use of nuclear power plants. Furthermore, research shows that even without accidents during operations, radioactive materials that are released affect the environment, and long-term health damage can be inflicted upon residents of the area. Additionally, if another accident were to occur, the permissible radiation dose is likely to be increased, leading to people not being evacuated and being forcibly exposed to radiation.

5. A Sustainable World

The impact of a nuclear accident lasts from decades to tens of thousands of years, and is a fundamental obstacle to realizing a sustainable world. As long as the probability of a nuclear accident is not zero, it is not possible to continue bearing such an enormous risk and create a sustainable world. Ideas and actions to eradicate this risk, or at least reduce it as much as possible, are necessary. While developing renewable energy, we must also expand lifestyles that are not wasteful and that save resources. A shift from a large-scale system to regionally dispersed system can also disperse the risk.

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power plants are located and to stimulate serious debate in areas where nuclear power plant construction is planned, the Fukushima Booklet Committee provides partial financial support for translation and printing of the booklet according to set guidelines. We also recommend use of the Creative Commons License "Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives" code for these publications, as is for the original.

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Fukushima Booklet Committee