

MAYORS FOR A NUCLEAR POWER FREE JAPAN



Outline

The “Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan” network was officially launched in Tokyo on April 28, 2012. This network was initiated by mayors and local municipal leaders attending the Global Conference for a Nuclear Power Free World held in Yokohama in January 2012 (for more information: npfree.jp), and as at May 29, 75 mayors¹ from 35 prefectures (of a total of 47) throughout Japan have declared their participation in this network.

A suprapartisan group of Diet members from almost all major Japanese political parties have been confirmed as Special Advisors, along with former Governor of Fukushima Prefecture, Sato Eisaku. Other high-profile supporters of the network include former Prime Minister Kan Naoto, Mayor of Seoul Park Won-soon, and Suzuki Teisuke, leader of the Network of Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs for a Sustainable Business and Energy Future.

Themes and Goals (See reverse page for full concept note)

The network declares to work together for the following aims:

- No new nuclear power plants to be built
- A move to zero nuclear power plants as soon as possible
 1. Understanding the real situation of nuclear power plants (costs, nuclear fuel cycle, final disposal sites etc)
 2. Clarifying the programme to move to zero nuclear power plants
 3. Creating concrete policies for the regional promotion of renewable energies
 4. Exchange and sharing of information through international solidarity
 5. Supporting the evacuation of and provision of safe food for children

Secretary-General: Uehara Hiroko (Former Mayor, Kunitachi City, Tokyo Metropolis)

Co-Representatives:

Mikami Hajime (Mayor, Kosai City, Shizuoka Prefecture)

Murakami Tatsuya (Mayor, Tokai Village, Ibaraki Prefecture)

Sakurai Katsunobu (Mayor, Minamisoma City, Fukushima Prefecture)

Special Advisors:

Eda Kenji (Your Party, Member of House of Representatives)

Fukushima Mizuho (Social Democratic Party, Member of House of Councilors)

Ishida Mitsuji (Kizuna Party, Member of House of Representatives)

Kono Taro (Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, Member of House of Representatives)

Sato Eisaku (Former Governor of Fukushima Prefecture)

Shii Kazuo (Japanese Communist Party, Member of House of Representatives)

Shinohara Takashi, (Democratic Party of Japan, Member of House of Representatives)

Tanaka Yasuo (New Party Nippon, Member of House of Representatives)

¹ Including former Mayors

Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan - Concept and Principles

It is now a year since the March 11 triple tragedy hit Japan. This disaster, in which so many lives were lost, is continuing to cause both great sadness and fear in the population of Japan and citizens around the world. Particularly, the meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and the vast and long-term damage to both health and the environment as a result of radioactive contamination, has totally destroyed the safety myth of nuclear power.

Furthermore, it is now clear that the “clean energy” or economic energy” put forward as reasons to support nuclear power have no foundation, and rather that it has not only destroyed the regional economy but also brought great shocks to the Japanese economy overall.

Since March 11, earthquakes have continued to occur very frequently, and there is reportedly the possibility for another great earthquake to occur. Municipalities hosting nuclear power plants and other areas surrounding them are now facing the need to take decisions as soon as possible regarding energy policies relying upon nuclear power.

More than anything, mayors and municipal leaders have the responsibility to protect the precious lives of their residents.

We have learned from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident that even when economic effects can be anticipated, policies with great risk also require preparation to make great sacrifice. However, the economy must not be prioritised to the sacrifice of citizens.

Furthermore, policies which cause deep concern for children's health throughout their lifetimes must not be handled. Children are our future, and all children have the right to live in good health. We adults, and municipalities, have the responsibility to protect these rights of children.

Currently, citizens are standing up to protect these children, and regional politicians and parliamentarians are creating networks to take action.

Local municipalities and mayors also must take their responsibility to refuse to be silent in this situation, and to actively make progress to aim for a society which does not depend on nuclear power, and realise regional policies to swiftly promote renewable energies.

The issue of radioactive contamination following the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident must be borne by all of Japan. In particular, it is the whole country's responsibility to continually support children at risk of exposure to radiation and those who are being forced to continue living in contaminated areas.

In order to transform these heavy responsibilities imposed on local municipalities into effective and policies, mayors nation-wide hereby network together to launch the “Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan,” bringing together their efforts for independent community building towards a Japan free from dependence on nuclear power.



Contact: Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan Secretariat

Web: <http://mayors.npfree.jp/> Email: mayors@npfree.jp

Tel: +81-3-6851-9791, Fax: +81-3-3363-7562