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Letter of Statement

Prime Minister, Noda Yoshihiko
Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy, Furukawa Motohisa

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Statement Regarding the New Basic Energy Plan
— **Mayors Calling for the Government to Open a Real Public Debate** —

On June 29 2012, the Japanese government put forward three scenarios for Japan's long-term energy and environmental policy.

After thorough debate, “Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan” urges the government to reconsider the content of the basic energy plan under review considering the following three points.

1. The fundamental principles of the policy should not place further burden on the recovery of Fukushima, or on the future

When Prime Minister Noda assumed office, he said: “without the recovery of Fukushima, there can be no recovery for Japan.” However, TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident has not been resolved, and there is no clear plan in sight for mandatory evacuation zones and the recovery of Fukushima Prefecture. The government's lowering of compensation amounts and narrowing of the contents for compensation has strengthened the feelings of neglect by local citizens in Fukushima. Without a clear path towards recovery in Fukushima, operations at the Ohi Nuclear Power Plant should not have been resumed.

The basic energy plan should be reviewed withwith a clear plan for the recovery of Fukushima and contaminated areas and the disposal of nuclear waste, with a fundamental principle to not place any further burden on future generations.

2. It is wrong to limit to three scenarios based only on power supply and demand

The TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident urged the government to make a fundamental shift in its energy policies. The scenarios presented by the government are based upon power supply and demand, measured and compared during the hottest peak hours of the 2010 summer. The lesson of the Fukushima nuclear accident was the need for a shift in our current social system and our own lives from a large-scale and centralized supply system to a small-scale decentralized supply system. It is wrong for the government to only present three scenarios based on the old system as if these are the only alternatives, and force the public to select from these. Not making these changes to the overall system and presenting the 3 options is to mislead the public. The government should actively promote a dramatic increase in renewable energy, efforts for energy efficiency such as

saving electricity, and using thermal, reform of the electricity system (separation of electricity production from distribution and transmission, re-examining regional monopoly) etc. We must widen our scope when thinking about the energy shift.

3. We must gather wisdom through real public debate

Starting 2 July till 12 August, the government is conducting a public opinion survey and holding hearings throughout Japan. However, it has been pointed out that these public hearings have only been for the government to create an alibi, with utility company employees promoting nuclear power at the hearings. This has led to questioning of this public debate, losing the public's confidence even more. The public debate must be overhauled, and time taken to gather knowledge and wisdom from the public.

From the points mentioned above, the Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan propose a comprehensive revision of the current scenarios regarding energy and environment, and without waiting for 2030 instead, urgently develop a zero nuclear policy.

On 5 July, the National Diet of Japan Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission (NAIIC) – the commission to investigate the background and cause of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster - submitted a report which clearly indicated that the accident was a "man-made disaster." Upon these grounds, the safety standards set forth must guarantee standards that will prevent any severe accidents. Without taking note of the findings of the report, the Ohi nuclear power plant has not met the requirements for operation. Until a thorough investigation of the Fukushima nuclear accident takes place, nuclear power plants restart must not be allowed, and we renew our call for the cessation of operations of the Ohi nuclear power plant.