

August 3rd, 2014

To the esteemed Mayor of Sinop, Mr. Baki Ergul

Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan
Secretary General Hiroko Uehara
Vice Secretary General Kazuo Sato

Mr. Ergul, we send our highest regards and hope that this letter finds you in prosperity and good health. Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan was established in April of 2012, and since then close to 100 mayors have joined our cause.

As mayors who are responsible for overseeing the local government and its citizens, it is imperative to note that our first and foremost concern should be to protect the livelihood of our residents. As authorities we must be aware that the implementation of government policies which entail large risk can be cause for great hardship and danger regardless of the economic benefits such policies may provide. Thus, our duties maintain that economic or political gains should under no circumstance be prioritized over the health and well-being of our citizens. Consequently, it is our strong belief that substances which may cause harm or pose long-term complications to children's health should never be handled by the government.

Our responsibility as heads of local governments dictates that we do not become silent bystanders amid the current state of affairs regarding nuclear power, but rise to the occasion to strive for a "nuclear free society." The development of regional policies regarding renewable energy and energy conservation measures should also be further promoted.

As Japanese citizens, we share a deep sense of despair and regret over the recent Nuclear Cooperation Agreement between Japan and Turkey, and the exportation of nuclear power by Japanese enterprises to Turkey. Like Japan, Turkey is considered an earthquake-prone country. This decision to export Japanese nuclear technology has been taken despite the fact that the results of investigations along Turkey's active fault lines have not been published yet, there is insufficient evaluation of the economic viability and above all, despite the fact that disagreement by local government and citizens has resulted in a lack of consensus on this issue. We find this deeply disturbing.

In the face of these pressing circumstances however, we are emboldened by your commitment to prevent the construction of a nuclear power plant in the city of Sinop and are delighted by your alliance as a fellow mayor devoted to the abolition of nuclear energy. It is our sincere hope that together in solidarity with one another, we can continue to advocate for a nuclear free society.

Sincerely,

上原 公子

Hiroko Uehara

佐藤 和雄

Kazuo Sato