

20 May 2015

Prime Minister (Leader of the LDP) Mr. ABE Shinzo  
Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Mr. MIYAZAWA Yoichi

Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan  
Co-Representatives: SAKURAI Katsunobu (Mayor of Minamisoma, Fukushima Prefecture)  
MIKAMI Hajime (Mayor Kosai City, Shizuoka Prefecture)  
MURAKAMI Tatsuya (Former Mayor Tokai Village, Ibaraki Prefecture)  
Secretary General: UEHARA Hiroko (Former Mayor Kunitachi City Tokyo)

### In strong Opposition to 20-22% Nuclear Power in the 2030 Energy Mix

In the outline proposal delivered by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry during the Council concerning Japan's 2030 Energy Mix, "nuclear power" is to account for "approximately 20-22%" of Japan's overall electricity use.

We, members of the 'Mayors for a Nuclear Power Free Japan' network, believe that there are many problems with this proposal, and are strongly opposed to it.

Firstly, in its manifesto during the 2012 Lower House elections, the current Liberal Democratic Party administration, promised that "the feasibility of all energy sources will be thoroughly explored. As well as securing energy sources necessary to maintain societal and economic activities, we aim to **establish an economic and societal framework which does not need to rely on nuclear power.**" Even in its 2014 elections manifesto, the administration stated that "dependence on nuclear power **will be reduced as much as possible** through the maximum introduction of energy conservation and renewable energies, and high-efficiency utilisation of thermal power generation."

There is a huge difference between using 20-22% nuclear power and these two election pledges. As the ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party should bring the contents of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry's proposed energy mix in line with these election pledges. To do otherwise would invite a lack of confidence in politics, and could lead to the destruction of democracy.

Secondly, to maintain the level of "20-22%," there would be no choice but to extend the operation of current nuclear power plants, or to construct new plants. The government has repeatedly stated that "no new nuclear power plants will be built." On the other hand, after the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident the Nuclear Reactor Regulation Law has been reviewed and the life span of nuclear power plants has been established in principle as 40 years. There is no legitimacy in stating these figures, which are inconsistent with this law.

Third are the voices of those from the affected municipalities. One of the municipalities affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake is Minamisoma City in Fukushima Prefecture. The mayor of the city, Mr SAKURAI Katsunobe, held a press conference on April 15, during which he said that nuclear power "is unacceptable from the viewpoint of revitalizing industry and protecting the lives of residents" and that the "reduction of the ratio of renewable energy would be a drawback for businesses considering entering the market. Affected areas that have fallen behind (due to the disaster) would become unable to attract business, which would be a blow to revitalizing industry."

We, as the mayors of municipalities charged with the responsibility of protecting the lives of residents and assuring that they can lead a peaceful life, hereby express our opposition for the reasons listed above to the proposed electricity mix of 20-22% nuclear energy by 2030.

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