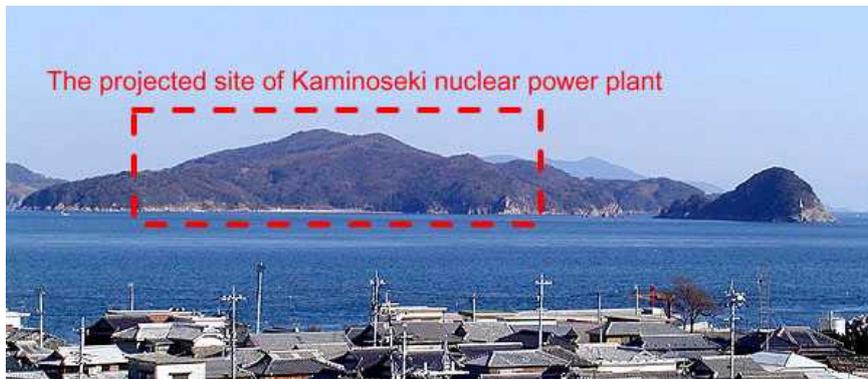


No Nuclear Power Plant in Our Community!

Iwaishima says no to nuclear power

Plans to build a nuclear power plant in the peaceful little Japanese town of *Kaminoseki* were first proposed in 1982. *Kaminoseki* is in the south-east of the *Seto* Inland Sea, whose coastal area was designated one of Japan's first National Parks in 1934. However, despite its idyllic setting, the town suddenly became the potential site of a development which threatened to shatter its serene natural beauty forever.



Over the years, the *Kaminoseki* community has gradually decreased until today it has a population of about 3,700. Initially, the nuclear power plant proposal brought social division to the harmony of this small and peaceful town. Some of its inhabitants felt that they had no choice but to accept the project to ensure the community's economic survival. However, the people of *Iwaishima*, the island just 4km from the projected site of the plant, outright rejected it. Regardless of the promised economic benefits and financial inducements, the *Iwaishima* islanders made it clear that they did not want the project.



In recent years the Japanese government policy on meeting energy needs has increasingly shifted away from thermal and hydroelectric power towards nuclear. The policy has seen a trend of repeated acquiescence to power companies' preference for nuclear power. However, despite the power companies' assurances, they have often proved unable to adequately deal with the problems caused by radiation, the disposal of nuclear waste and other forms of environmental destruction. Even though these serious problems and risks have not been properly addressed, both the government and the power companies have continued to rely on nuclear energy. The motives for this are those of simple economics. The financial expediency of nuclear energy has always trumped genuine concerns about the incalculable human and environmental costs.

Precious surroundings in Tanoura, Kaminoseki

The specific site in *Kaminoseki* where the nuclear power plant is proposed to be constructed is called *Tanoura*. This is an area which is the natural habitat for a large number of flora and fauna, including birds, fish, shells and various other forms of marine life. It is also the habitat for some endangered species such as the Finless Porpoise (*Neophocaena phocaenoides*) and Japanese Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus wumisuzume*). The Finless Porpoise is the smallest known species of porpoise. Japanese Murrelet chicks were found near the site as recently as May 2008 and as a result of additional research more murrelets have been seen around the site. The discovery of a breeding site is expected to be found in the same area. Though this area is obviously one of special importance as a habitat for various forms of wildlife, an environmental assessment was not carried out in an impartial and transparent manner. In fact, the agencies which completed the assessment were engaged by the very same companies which are interested in developing the site – an obvious conflict of interest.

We urge the authorities to protect these precious surroundings from this potentially environmentally devastating development.



An island of breath-taking natural beauty, Iwaishima

Since 1982, the people of *Iwaishima* have led a determined and patient campaign demonstrating their objection to the construction of the nuclear power plant. *Iwaishima* is a small island just 4 km from *Tanoura*. It is an island of breath-taking natural beauty and its 500 inhabitants continue a traditional, sustainable lifestyle of fishing and farming that has existed for countless generations. But this way of life will be destroyed if the construction of the nuclear power plant goes ahead. The local ecosystem will be disturbed, perhaps irrevocably, and the inhabitants will no longer be able to live off the area's fresh fish and rich harvest. Though they have been offered sizeable financial inducements to accept the project in the form of indemnity, the people of *Iwaishima* have expressed their overwhelming preference for a traditional life of sustainable development. The *Iwaishima* people have rejected the offer of a lifestyle of financial enrichment brought about through simultaneous environmental impoverishment.



Also worthy of mention is the *Iwaishima* “Kan-Mai” festival, which has been in existence since the *Heian* era in 886. The people of Iwaishima proudly continue to celebrate their historical and cultural heritage in a festival that has been held for over 1,100 years.

They would like to pass their traditional cultural heritage on to the next generation in the island's beautiful natural surroundings. They choose this over leaving their children the short-term financial benefits offered by allowing the construction and operation of a nuclear power plant that will cause environmental destruction and wreak havoc to their lives.

The campaign to stop this development suffered a serious setback on October 22, 2008. The governor of Yamaguchi Prefecture, *Nii Sekinari*, granted an electricity company permission to reclaim sea around the area in preparation for the construction of the plant. The company had long been anticipating the go ahead to start reclaiming land as a preliminary stage in this development project. The governor made this decision without proper consultation and against the express wishes of the people of *Iwaishima*. Despite some pending lawsuits filed in relation to this development, the company has vowed to forge ahead with this project following the governor's decision.

We are committed to halting the construction of a nuclear power plant which will cause untold environmental and social damage to our area. We express our desire to maintain and continue the people of *Iwaishima's* traditional, environmentally sustainable way of life.

Information about the planned project and Iwaishima

* **Scheduled Facility**

	Reactor I	Reactor II
Output	1373000Kw	1373000kw
Start of Construction	2010	2013
In operation	2015	2018

* Population of *Iwaishima* : 522 (2008/10)

* Local crops and marine produce

Sea bream, Octopus, *mebaru* rockfish (*Sebastes inermis*), Japanese medlar (loquat), loquat-leaf tea, many kinds of seaweed such as agar, *wakame*(*Undaria pinnatifida*), *hijiki*(*Sargassum fusiformis*), etc.

* Viewing spots : Stonewalls, cherry blossoms, *Kokkoh* (a fruit that has legendary anti-aging power), *Gyohja-doh* (a small shrine sacred to *Enno Ozune*)



Pictures: Some were offered by the Association for the Conservation of *Nagashima* Island, The others were provided by the people of *Iwaishima*.

Italic handwritings: Scientific name and Japanese

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*No Nuclear Power Plant
In Our Community*

Iwaishima

Wants

A life of Health and Sustainability

