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☞ Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

3F Watanabe Bldg., Higashiueno 2-23-22, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110, JAPAN

Phone: 03-832-1976, Facsimile: 03-832-4930

Three-day Anti-Nuke Festival in Tokyo



IN THIS ISSUE

Ales Adamovitch from USSR	2
Alexander Jacovlev from USSR	3
Sebastian Pflugbeil from GDR	4
Ahn Jung-Sun from Korea	5
Earthday in Seoul	
Cycle Rally in India	6
Anti-Nuke Group	7
Significant Incidents Jan-July '89	8
NEWS WATCH	9
Irradiated Potatoes Safe?/Fishermen's Co-op Reject Research/ Kashiwazaki-Kariwa 5 Starts Operation/Power Plant Construction Plan/"Public" Hearing on LLW Facility/High Court Rejects Appeal/ Capacity Factors in '89	

A three-day anti-nuke festival was held in Tokyo on April 27, 28, and 29. On the first day 2.5 million signatures calling for the phase out of nuclear power were submitted to the Diet. As many as 49 members of the Lower House and 40 members of the Upper House have expressed their support for the phase out law so far.

Japanese law makes no provision for petitions to be taken up for debate in the Diet, so we are asking these supporting Diet members to submit a bill to the Diet.

A rally and parade were held on April 28, and a concert on April 29. Three guest speakers were invited from overseas: Ales Adamovitch from the Soviet Union, Sebastian Pflugbeil from East Germany, and Ahn Jung-sun from Korea. In addition, Alexander Jacovlev, a medical doctor from Ukraine, USSR, was invited by the Japan Congress against A & H Bombs. The text of their speeches is given below.

Ales Adamovitch

People's Deputy of the USSR, Writer,
Director of Film Art Institute



I am originally from Byelorussia, which suffered the worst contamination from the Chernobyl accident.

We are often asked why an accident like Chernobyl occurred. One of the main reasons is that the technology was never in people's hands. People have surrendered their right to control technology. The scientists and experts on nuclear power have always told us that nuclear power is cheap, clean, and safe and they have managed to make us believe it.

Alexandrov, chief of the prestigious Soviet Academy of Sciences, and head of the Nuclear Institute, once said the Chernobyl-type reactors were so safe

that they could be built inside the Kremlin.

However, the Chernobyl accident has changed the situation drastically. People are now starting to assert their right to control nuclear power. Of the 38 reactors either planned or under construction as many as 36 have been cancelled or stopped due to opposition from local people.

Byelorussia, Ukraine, and the Russian Republic have been badly contaminated and close to four million people are still living in the contaminated area, covering about 20,000 square km. About 70% of the radiation released by the accident came down in Byelorussia. Southern Byelorussia, home to about 2.5 million people, was more contaminated than other areas.

People in this area cannot swim in the rivers or lakes or play in the forest. It is prohibited to harvest mushrooms. It is also dangerous to drink milk from the cows. Even breastfeeding is not good, since mothers' milk is also contaminated. People in the contaminated area have been exposed to radiation internally by eating contaminated food. At least half a million people in this area should be evacuated immediately.

The government and experts have been covering up the truth about the contamination for a long time, telling the residents not to worry. Experts from abroad, including some from Japan, have also said the same thing.

There is an urgent need to set up a medical institute in the most contaminated area to give people medical care. We need the support of the whole world. It is impossible for people in the USSR to cope with such a catastrophe by themselves. We strongly urge people around the world to give us their support.

The experience of Hiroshima & Nagasaki urged us to fight against nuclear war and the Chernobyl accident has showed us the dangers posed by large-scale technology.

Alexander Jacovlev

Chief of Laboratory of Radiology
Research Institute of Pediatrics,
Obstetrics and Genealogy, Kiev, USSR



I am a doctor, specialized in radiology. I would like to give you a brief picture of the damage caused by the Chernobyl accident. There are differences between Hiroshima and Chernobyl. One of them is that the people in Hiroshima were mostly exposed to gamma radiation, whereas people in Chernobyl were exposed internally, by eating contaminated food and drinking contaminated water. Another difference is the extent of the affected area. Whereas the affected area was rather limited in Hiroshima, the contaminated area in Chernobyl was much greater, and hot spots were found far away from the reactor itself. Hot spots were caused by a combination of rain and winds, and were found scattered over a wide area.

Right after the accident, people in the 30km zone, about 95,000 in Ukraine and 30,000 in Byelorussia, were evacuated. However, there were areas contaminated even worse than the 30km zone, and the people in these worst contaminated areas are still living there today. Even within a single village, contamination levels vary. But people are still raising livestock, farming, and having children.

The third difference is that a large quantity of iodine 131 was released from Chernobyl. Iodine 131 accumulates in the thyroid gland, especially in children's thyroids. We have children found to have been exposed to large amounts of iodine 131, and this is the most serious medical problem we are facing right now.

We have social, psychological, and medical problems, and the return of people to the contaminated area constitutes a further problem. The social problem is the difficulties faced by evacuees when they are resettled. The psychological problem is the fear and anxiety people have. Even children worry about their health and food, and are living in constant fear.

The medical problem is the various diseases children are contracting; thyroid abnormalities, depression, bleeding, anemia, and deterioration of the immune system.

Some elderly people have gone back to their homes, ignoring the heavy contamination. They often take their grandchildren back with them and start living as before, farming and raising cattle. They don't care about the effects of radiation. At least 900 Ukrainian families have gone back to their homes so far.

The Chernobyl accident clearly showed how devastating nuclear accidents could be. It is not just a tragedy for the USSR, but also a global tragedy. Chernobyl taught us the importance of fighting not only the atomic bomb, but also the so-called "peaceful use of the atom." We all need to fight, regardless of where we are from or who we are, so that there are no more Hiroshimas or Chernobyls.

Sebastian Pflugbeil

Physicist, Energy Critic of "New Forum," East Germany



One of the nuclear problems we face in our country is that the largest uranium mine in Europe is located there. Miners working under bad conditions in the 50s and 60s are now dying from lung cancer. The nearby residents have also been exposed to radioactivity from the tailings. Radium has been found in drinking water there and radon gas has been given off by the tailings.

Another problem we have is nuclear reactors. There are four reactors in operation, all built in the 60s. Their design, technology, and equipment mostly came from the USSR. They were quite poor in quality in the first place and now even worse since they are aged.

A joint East and West German Committee has been set up to check on safety. This governmental committee, however, has strong ties with an energy enterprise, Siemens of West Germany. Siemens is seeking an opportunity to sell their products to East Germany, since there is no longer a market within West Germany. So the committee is expected to submit a recommendation stating that the reactors can continue to operate if they are equipped with new parts.

As you know, a small revolution took place recently in our country. A Round Table was set up for discussions between representatives of the Communist Party and representatives

of the people's movements. A proposal was passed by the Round Table to set up another independent committee to check the safety of nuclear reactors. This time, scientists from both East and West Germany who are critical of nuclear power are participating. I am also a member of this committee.

The new committee, however, has not been allowed access to the necessary information and papers regarding the reactors. This kind of secrecy has always been used by the nuclear "mafia." Fortunately I was able to obtain the materials while I was a minister without portfolio for two months up to the free elections in March.

These materials show just how poor conditions at the reactors are and how urgently they need to be stopped. Neither the communist government nor the newly elected government are doing anything about these reactors.

What we are afraid of is that Siemens will come into East Germany and possibly into other eastern European countries as well. Once this big enterprise comes on to the scene, people will lose the chance to create safe and clean energy sources of their own.

On the other hand, if we can keep the nuclear mafia from the West out of our country, we will be able to set a good example for the rest of the world.

We had a successful revolution last fall, but the result of the revolution was not what we had hoped for. Still, we learned a lot from our struggles. We learned that cooperation and solidarity among people was quite important. We also learned that standing up and doing something resulted in more meaningful achievements than just sitting around and thinking. Doing what we think is right often has the most powerful consequences. If people from the West and the East cooperate, and work for what we tried to obtain last fall in our country, then we can really create a better world.

Ms. Ahn Jung-Sun

Korea Anti-Pollution Movement
Association, Research Committee



In Korea, there are 9 reactors now operating and 2 more are under construction. The government disclosed plans in May '89 to build 56 reactors by 2031.

There have recently been reports of abnormal babies being born to families where the father had worked at a nuclear power plant. Last year a baby was born without a brain, and only this March, a baby was born with a huge head without bones.

These cases have aroused great concern among the Korean people, especially when there is no legal recourse for victims of exposure to radioactivity.

Korea's first national anti nuclear-power coalition, named the "National Headquarters for the Nuclear Power Eradication Movement," was organized in April 1989. The coalition was formed to fight the construction of Yeong-gwang reactors 3 & 4. It started a "One Million Signature Campaign" in Sept. '89 and has already collected 160,000 signatures as of Feb. '90. Of these, 15,000 came from Japan. Although the government started construction last December without any notice, we don't believe our struggle has ended.

In Korea, the movement against nuclear power plants is felt to be a movement against nuclear arms as well. This is because we believe they are two sides of the same hand. For the peace of our peninsula, we want neither nuclear arms nor nuclear power plants. This may be the biggest difference between the Japanese anti-nuke movement and the Korea, because in Japan, opposition to nuclear arms and nuclear power are clearly separated.

Today, participating in the demonstration march to the Diet, I was astonished to find mothers with small children taking part. In Korea, I always take my 5 year old daughter to peaceful demonstrations, but we are always besieged by the fearsome riot police, and I never see any other mothers with children. The social situation is such that it is very difficult for mothers to bring their children on demonstrations.

Nuclear power and nuclear arms are the greatest threats to human beings and to our descendants. And since nuclear disasters take no account of national boundaries, we need international solidarity to fight nuclear power till it is eradicated. When all of us join hands, our struggle against nuclear arms and nuclear power will surely be won!" □

Earth Day in Seoul

by Tomio Ohkuma

From April 20 to 26, I attended the Earth Day Events held in Seoul together with 4 other Japanese anti-nuclear activists, under the exchange program of the "Japan-Korea Joint Anti-Nuclear Action" Group. The exchange was planned to deepen relations between the Korean and Japanese anti-nuclear movements.

An Earth Day Meeting was held in Namsan park in south Seoul, and 5,000 people attended despite the

rain. Many young people had gathered enthusiastically around the stage.

The meeting was organized by Catholic groups and the Anti Pollution Movement Association, which leads the struggle against nuclear power. From 2 pm, we heard appeals by victims of pollution, representatives of labor unions, teachers' unions, and churches. Popular singers and artists took the stage in between speeches. Songs and poems had been specially written for this meeting, and had very political themes like the unification of North and South, democratization and pollution.

The famous poet Kim Chi-Ha

appeared, after 16 years of absence from such public meetings, and read a poem he had written for Earth Day. He also declared that nuclear power plants could not co-exist with living things on the Earth. His aura of calm and peace stood out among the straightforward songs and appeals of the other participants.

The meeting ended with a speech by a doctor active in anti-pollution movements, urging that Korea "stop all nuclear power plants!"

After the meeting was over, the participants set out for a demonstration. However, we were stopped by the riot police just 1 km out of the park and couldn't get any further. □

Cycle Rally Held in India

We received a letter from ANUMUKTI (a journal devoted to a non-nuclear India) informing us of their 4th Chernobyl anniversary event. India's first Candu reactor has been in operation since 1973. They already have 7 reactors in operation and 7 under construction. But after 17 years, "the local people around the plant have realized that this kind of 'development' is based on their continued poverty." They have formed an "Atomic Radiation Struggle Council," which planned a 2 day nationwide convention on April 25 & 26 in Rawatbhata. ANUMUKTI was to hold a cycle rally from Kakrapur to Rawatbhata, passing through the lands of indigenous peoples' as well as big cities. We decided to exchange solidarity messages with ANUMUKTI, and the message from India is as follows:

"Atomic power is a menace and a grave threat to the continued existence of the human race. The continued support to atomic programs by governments all over the world has made it imperative that people should organize and exert 'people's power' to force

governments to abandon this march towards suicide. It is in a spirit of worldwide solidarity that we support the Japanese people's struggle against nuclear power.

Nuclear power has been a special curse in India. Scarce resources in both trained manpower and money are diverted to a source which exploits the rural poor to provide electricity for the urban rich.

(middle part omitted)

On this 26th April we commemorate the victims of the worst industrial disaster in history. The people of Rawatbhata - the site of India's first indigenous nuclear plant - are organizing a two day convention to forge a joint front with other anti-nuclear struggles in India. The people of Kakrapur - site of the latest nuclear power plant - join the people of Rawatbhata in this struggle. We welcome the message of solidarity from the people of Japan. NO NUKES!

From Surendra Gadekar" □

ANTI-NUKE GROUPS

ACTIVE AROUND JAPAN

Suzu City Residents Against Nuclear Power

It was in 1975 that the Suzu nuclear power scheme first came to light. A facility was to be jointly developed by three power companies, Kansai Electric, Chubu Electric, and Hokuriku Electric, and a plan took shape for a large plant with a generating capacity of 1,000kw. The plan had its ups and downs, but in 1985 Mr. Hayashi Mikindo won the mayoral election without a vote, promising that he would have the nuclear power plant built in Suzu. The next year, the city council resolved to bring the plant to Suzu despite the fact that the decision was taken immediately after the Chernobyl accident. With this, the scheme moved forward rapidly.

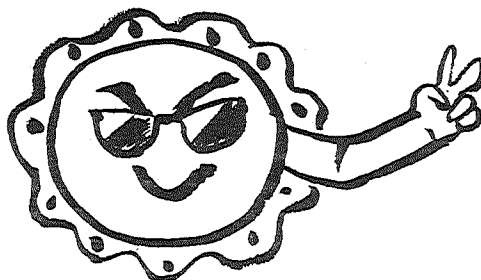
Meanwhile, the opposition movement had been active in the two areas of Jike and Takaya, where the nuclear plant was slated to be built, as well as among labor union members but still hampered by the conservative climate, the opposition was unable to build a broad-based movement. However, they couldn't allow a pro-nuclear mayor to be elected for a second consecutive term without a vote, so a group of people who sensed the crisis got together and began working on an election campaign. And so it was that, exactly one year ago, "Suzu City Residents Against Nuclear Power" was formed.

At first the group comprised only about 10 people: A Buddhist temple priest, a young teacher, farmers, and self-employed people, none of whom had any experience in elections. As election day approached, people asked their friends and acquaintances to join,

and the movement steadily broadened. Until that time people had not vocalized their opposition to nuclear power, but now a chorus of opposition was heard everywhere in the city. There was a big shift in the conservative climate. Although we didn't win the election, our obscure candidate did well enough to approach the incumbent very closely.

About one month after the mayoral election, Kansai Electric ignored the opinions of the citizens and began its preliminary survey in the Takaya area. However, many citizens participated in actions to obstruct the survey, and also held a sit-in at the city hall as a protest toward the city, finally forcing Kansai Electric to suspend the survey about a month later. During this time, about 20 anti-nuclear power groups formed in the city, and it goes without saying that members of our organization formed the core of these groups.

Since then the local government and the electric companies have carried out an aggressive nuclear promotion campaign. Recently it was revealed that Chubu Electric had purchased a portion of the proposed site in the Jike area, and that the mayor and deputy mayor had previously acquired part of the site, so now they are the target of heightening criticism. □



Significant Incidents at Nuclear Plants

(January-July 1989)

Date	Plant	Short Description of Event
Jan. 6	Fukushima II-3	Rupture of inner structures of a recirculation pump; more than 30kg of broken metal pieces and metal powder penetrated into reactor core.
Jan. 11	Ohi 1 Mihama 2	Steam generator tube damage found during inspection. Damage to 18 bolts of primary coolant outlet vane found during inspection.
Jan. 12	Tokai 1	Part of cable tray detached and fell into reactor core (found during inspection).
Feb. 13	Fukushima I-3	25 tons of water leaked through filter in turbine building during inspection.
Feb. 14	Tsuruga 1	Control rod found disconnected from its drive mechanism during inspection.
Feb. 26	Fukushima I-5	Failure of a recirculation pump; reactor manually stopped. Cracks in shafts of two recirculation pumps found afterwards during inspection.
Mar. 4	NSRR	Control rod detached from its drive shaft and could not be pulled out.
Mar. 8	Ohi 2	Reactor scram due to primary coolant pump power loss.
Mar. 16	Tokai Repro. Plant	Worker exposed to plutonium.
Mar. 20	Sendai 2	Damage to spindle of primary coolant flow regulator valve (found during inspection).
Mar. 24	Sendai 2	Damage to spindle of a primary coolant system valve for temperature measurement (found during inspection).
Apr. 10	Shimane 2	Recirculation pump malfunction; reactor manually shut down.
Apr. 13	Ohi 1	Steam regulator valve malfunction; reactor manually shut down.
Apr. 27	Genkai 1	Damage to steam generator tubes found during inspection.
Apr. 28	Fukushima II-4	Abnormal signal from sea water circulation pump temperature detector; reactor manually shut down.
May 30	JAERI Tokai	Uranium metal caught fire spontaneously in enrichment research building.
Jun. 3	Fukushima II-2	Primary coolant leaked from heat exchanger piping of coolant purification system; reactor manually shut down.
Jun. 7	Turuga 2	Foreign substance entered into sealing of primary coolant pump (during test operation).
Jun. 13	Ikata 1	Damage to steam generator tubes and primary coolant outlet vane bolts found during inspection.
Jun. 21	Mihama 1	Corrosion pin holes found in 6 steam generator tubes during inspection.
Jun. 22	Fukushima II-1	Feed water pump tripped due to rotary shaft deformation.
Jun. 28	Turuga 2	Reactor scram due to main feed water trip (during test operation).
Jul. 3	Fukushima I-1	39 cracks found on surface of heat exchanger of coolant purification system.
Jul. 26	NSRR	Control rod detached from its drive shaft and could not be pulled out.



Are Irradiated Potatoes Really Safe ?

Food Irradiation Network Japan (established Sept. '89) held a Citizens' and Diet Members' Conference of 20th April, to discuss the irradiation of potatoes in Japan with the Science & Technology Agency, Ministry of Health and Welfare, and Ministry of Agriculture. 8 Socialist Party members and more than 50 citizens filled the small conference room.

The network had prepared several questions to each ministry beforehand, and these were answered at the meeting. However, the STA was unable to supply missing data on the ovary weights of mice, from the long-term toxicity experiments done on mice with irradiated potatoes in the 1960s. If these data were blanked out on purpose, it means the Ministry of Health has approved the safety of irradiating potatoes on the basis of defective data.

For more information, please contact FIN Japan, 3-14-5-310 Higashi-Nakano, Nakano-ku, Tokyo 164, Fax 3-364-2937.

The 1990 edition of the English pamphlet is available now!

Iwaishima Fishermen's Co-op Reject Preparatory Research

In Kaminoseki-cho, Yamaguchi prefecture, where a nuclear power station is planned by the Chugoku Electric Power Co., Ltd., the fishermen's cooperative Iwaishima-Gyokyo decided on April 26 to refuse the company's request to carry out preparatory research. Iwaishima island is off the coast of the

planned site. As it happened the general assembly was held four years to the day after the Chernobyl accident. Islanders gathered outside the building and listened to the debate at the meeting broadcast through loudspeakers. The vote turned out to be a landslide victory for those who had opposed the research, with 114 against 10. Furthermore the meeting unanimously passed a resolution that the issue should not be raised again.

Kashiwazaki-kariwa Unit 5 Starts Operation

Unit 5 of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant, in Niigata prefecture, started commercial operation on April 10, bringing the total number of nukes in operation in Japan to 39 with a combined capacity of 30,545MW.

Immediately afterwards, it was leaked from within the plant that the company had failed to carry-out certain checks on the radioactive waste disposal facilities, which were supposed to be improved before the plant started up.

Annual Power Plant Construction Plan Revealed

Electric power companies published in early April their Power Plant Construction Plan for fiscal 1990. Forecasting high growth in power demand, some companies decided to start operation of their nuclear reactors earlier than originally planned, whereas others have delayed start-ups. Postponing the start-up of a reactor already under construction means higher construction costs. The reason why

some companies have postponed start-ups in spite of higher costs is that they consider it preferable to having excess capacity. Over the last several years one or two reactors per year have delayed starting up for the same reason.

As for reactors at the planning stage, plans have been put off every year, some as many as twelve times. This reflects both strong opposition to plans as well as the lack of immediate need for the power companies to build new plants.

“Public” Hearing on LLW Facility Held

A “public” hearing was held on April 26 concerning the safety of the LLW Storage facility which Japan Nuclear Fuel Industries, Inc. is planning to build in Rokkashomura, Aomori prefecture. However, since the hearing was merely an opportunity for the promoter to push the plan, with construction already a foregone conclusion, it was boycotted by opposition groups in the prefecture. Some 40 citizens staged a protest action on the day.

At the hearing the speakers just read the prepared questions, and the STA official gave stereotyped answers. Very few seats reserved for the public were occupied.

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NUKE INFO TOKYO is a bi-monthly newsletter which aims to provide foreign friends with up-to-date information on the Japanese nuclear industry, as well as on the movements against this industry in Japan. Please write to us for subscription (subscription rate: supporting subscriber \$40/year, subscriber \$20/year). We would also appreciate receiving information and newsletters from groups abroad in exchange for this newsletter.

NUKE INFO TOKYO Publishing Committee
 c/o Citizens' Nuclear Information Center
 3F Watanabe Bldg., Higashiueno 2-23-22,
 Taito-ku, Tokyo 110, JAPAN,
 Phone: 03-832-1976,
 Facsimile: 03-832-4930
 Bank Account: Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank 089-1080344
 Hangenpatsu News

High Court Rejects Residents' Appeal

The Sendai High Court on March 20 ruled to reject an appeal by residents who had filed a complaint over the decision made by the Fukushima District Court (in July 1984) rejecting their request that the court cancel its approval of the construction of Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Fukushima II-1. The high court, taking the government's stance, assumes that there won't be a serious accident. Moreover, its decision statement contains a comment quite unrelated to the point at dispute, that “people should not just oppose nuclear plants but think calmly. What would happen without nuclear plants? Fossil fuels create environmental problems such as global warming and acid rain.” The residents appealed to the supreme court again on April 3, claiming the high court's decision was unfair, and based merely on prejudice.

Lower Capacity Factors

Capacity factors are now available for all Japanese nuclear power plants for the year 1989. The 36 reactors, excluding those which started operation during the year, averaged 69.6%, once again lower than the previous year and now under 70%. (See next issue for details.)