

June 4, 2012

To: Prime Minister of Japan Noda Yoshihiko
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan Genba Kouichiro
Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung

**A Request Regarding the Petition Submitted by Vietnamese Citizens Opposing Japan's
Export of Nuclear Power Plants**

Recently, Dr. Nguyen Xuan Dien and 452 other Vietnamese citizens submitted a petition protesting against Japan's export of nuclear power plants to Vietnam (see the attached below). The petition criticized the Japanese government as irresponsible and immoral for providing support to construct nuclear power plants in Vietnam. These Vietnamese citizens were seriously concerned about the construction project because even Japan, a country with highly developed technologies, could not prevent a nuclear accident.

On May 18, however, a group of people who claimed to be military veterans came to the research institution where Dr. Nguyen works and intimidated him to retract the petition. Dr. Nguyen also received an order to report to Hanoi Police, and his blog was shut down.

In Japan, many people are still suffering from tragic and serious consequences of the Fukushima nuclear accident. In light of our experience of the accident, we Japanese citizens are opposed to the restart of nuclear reactors and hope to phase out nuclear power as soon as possible. Many of us are also concerned about the safety of nuclear reactors, the problem of nuclear waste, and the nuclear industry's undue influence on politics and economy.

In this respect, we fear that our Asian neighbor, Vietnam, may commit the same mistake as Japan did by importing the dangerous nuclear power technologies: to become dependent on nuclear power and force Vietnamese people to live with risks. Nuclear power plants would pose huge risks to people in both Vietnam and adjacent countries. It would also taint Japan's reputation if the Japanese government proceeded with the export of nuclear power plants only to benefit Japan's nuclear industry.

We deeply respect the Vietnamese citizens' courage to submit the petition to the Japanese government. We hereby request the government to officially answer the petition and take necessary measures to ensure that Dr. Nguyen and other citizens will not suffer negative consequences from signing and submitting the petition. Also note that both Japanese and international civil societies are closely following this issue. We sincerely hope that both the Japanese and Vietnamese governments will respond honestly to the courageous petition.

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PROTEST AGAINST THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT ON PROVIDING FINANCIAL AID TO BUILD NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN VIETNAM, AND DEMAND AN IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION OF THIS IMMORAL AND DISCRIMINATORY ACT.

Dear Prime Minister,

On 4 May 2012, Japan's Hokkaido Electric Power Co shut down the last nuclear power plant of the 54 such facilities in Japan. This action has officially ceased the production of electricity by means of nuclear fission from Uranium in all of Japan.

The decision of Japanese government came as the result of the catastrophic near "meltdown" explosion and emission of deadly radioactive materials from the nuclear power plant in Fukushima Daiichi after the severe earthquake and Tsunami in Fukushima region in 11 March 2011.

The catastrophic disaster of the Fukushima nuclear plant has been affecting millions of Japanese living in the vicinity of this power plant stretching as far as 100km or more from the plant in the short term and the whole of Japan as well the East Asian region, not to say around the world, for many years to come. This catastrophic disaster was just short of the severity of the scale of catastrophic nuclear power plant explosion in Chernobyl in 1986 which killed hundreds of thousands of Russian people in the then Soviet Union, ruined the life of many more millions people in Russia, Ukrainian for many generations and contaminated a vast area of Northern Europe with deadly radioactive materials for thousands of years.

Even with the highly advanced Japanese nuclear technology comparing with the rest of the world and the strict safety requirements and controls put in place by the Japanese government and her people upon the nuclear power industries, the seems to be impossible nuclear accident would ever occur, even a small mishap, did happen in catastrophic scales within the Fukushima nuclear complex. This has caused grave concerns from the population of Japan.

People of Japan strongly demanded the whole nuclear power plant scheme to cease operation and no more nuclear power plant to be built in Japan. The Japanese government and Parliament have acted promptly and decisively, resulting with all operational nuclear power plants in Japan have now stopped operation. The last plant, the 54th nuclear power plant, ceased operation on 4 May 2012. Similar actions have been taking place to rid off nuclear plants in Germany and Switzerland. The US had stopped building new nuclear power plants even before this terrible accident, and many other countries have since vowed to no longer engage with nuclear power.

The Japanese government have decided to close all their 54 nuclear power plants after the catastrophic disaster of the Fukushima nuclear power plant, therefore they must not give financial assistances as well as allowing Japanese companies to sell or build nuclear power plants to other countries around the world.

On contrary to the decision to stop all existing nuclear power plants as well as any plant to build new plant in the future inside Japan for fear of accidents from those nuclear power plants affecting the health and well-being of its people as well as the country's economy, the government of Japan recently approved the program of assisting and aiding Vietnam to build a nuclear power plant in Phan Rang, Ninh Thuan Province. This is an irresponsible action if not an inhuman and immoral action of the Japanese government to Vietnam and her people. This is a blatant act of discrimination against the welfare and safety of Vietnamese people in comparing with the people in Japan, if not to be considered as an unlawful act and against human beings, morally. If the government of Japan had decided to close all its 54 nuclear power plants, they must not give financial assistance as well as not allow Japanese companies to sell or build nuclear power plants in other countries.

We, the concerned Vietnamese from inside and outside of Vietnam, write this letter to you to protest against your government's decision on giving aids to the Vietnamese government to build a nuclear power plant in Vietnam. We strongly urge you and your government to reverse immediately this discriminative, irresponsible and immoral act. Sincerely yours

On behalf of concerned Vietnamese
Prof Nguyen The Hung, Dr Nguyen Xuan Dien, Nguyen Hung.