

To – The Japanese Ambassador,
Embassy of Japan,
Wellington
New Zealand
Fax (04) 471 2951

15th June, 2012

Dear Ambassador,

Friends of the Earth (New Zealand) is sending this letter to you in the hope that you would be kind enough to forward it to the Prime Minister, Mr Noda.

We are very concerned to hear that a decision has been made by Prime Minister Noda to restart two nuclear reactors in the town of Ohi, in the prefecture of Fukui, Western Japan.

Our concerns are based on the serious risks of nuclear contamination of the marine food chain and atmosphere that has been known to occur following damage to a nuclear reactor. Such damage and effects has sadly taken place following the failure of containment that resulted from the tsunami damage to the power reactor at Fukushima.

It is established beyond any doubt that no country “is an island” when there is nuclear contamination. It does not remain solely within national boundaries.

As you would be aware, New Zealand has for some decades had Nuclear Free legislation that bans the use of nuclear power, nuclear propulsion and nuclear weapons. Much of the drive to include the ban on nuclear weapons resulted from the widespread horror and rejection by citizens here of the terrible effects on the people and environment that followed the detonation of the nuclear weapons dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Last weekend citizens here commemorated the 25 year anniversary of our Nuclear Free legislation, which now has bipartisan support. It is possible to adopt and follow a nuclear free path.

On behalf of ourselves and the many nations that are situated around Japan in the Pacific, we ask you please to not expose them to potential further nuclear contamination that may result from another unfortunate nuclear disaster.

Please do not succumb to pro-nuclear pressures from either inside or outside Japan - to not learn the lessons from the tragedy at Fukushima. Instead, we would request that you support the wishes of your people and many others in establishing a moratorium on nuclear power in Japan.

Finally we would be pleased to supply any further information that you may require on this matter, and we would appreciate confirmation from you on the receipt of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

R. E. Tait
Co-director
Friends of the Earth (NZ)