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சுற்றுடல் நீதிக்கான கேந்திர நிலையம்
Centre for Environmental Justice



www.ejustice.lk

20/A, කුරුපු පාර, කොළඹ 08.
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13 June 2012

Mr. Yoshihiko Noda,
Hon. Prime Minister of Japan

Dear Prime Minister,

Letter of protest regarding your decision to restart nuclear power plants in Ohi, Japan

Centre for Environmental Justice/Friends of the Earth Sri Lanka is a member of the Friends of the Earth International, an international network of grassroots groups from 76 countries.

We protest your decision to restart two nuclear power reactors in the town of Ohi in Fukui Prefecture. We ask you to reconsider and instead impose a moratorium on nuclear power in Japan. We ask you to come up with a responsible energy policy for the Japan without nuclear power and based on energy conservation and renewable energies.

We join the civil society groups in Japan to protest against the said reactors due to the following reasons.

The full truth about the meltdown of the three reactors in Fukushima has not been established, yet.

The prevailing, temporary safety standards that have been applied by the stress tests and that you referred to when you declared the Ohi reactors to be safe, are insufficient. At present, essential safety measures that are required by the stress tests have not yet been implemented in Ohi. It is not verified whether the reactors can be shut down safely if a serious earthquake were to occur.

Any new regime of safety standards must be formulated and overseen by a truly

independent Nuclear Safety Agency. As we have learned this agency has not yet been established, and parliamentary procedures have just been started.

As we have learned, the sharp increase in seismic activities in Japan since the earthquake and tsunami catastrophe of March 11 is alarming. The fact that there are active fault lines in the vicinity of the Ohi reactors, and perhaps even under the site is a major reason of concern.

As you are well aware, since Chernobyl and Fukushima that the fallout of nuclear accidents does not know national borders, but severely impacts the global environment and bears unknown risks to the health of all mankind. We believe it is our moral obligations to voice our concerns to you.

We also know that our concerns are shared by many people in your country and that a majority of Japanese citizens does not agree with you. We have high respect for the people of Japan, for their sense of community and service in times of great harm. We believe in their creativity and strong will to overcome these difficult times, and to rebuild a Japan without nuclear power.

We, therefore, ask you to kindly reconsider the restart of the Ohi reactors and to declare a moratorium on nuclear power. We ask you to come up with a responsible energy policy for a Japan without nuclear power based on energy conservation and renewable energies.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hemantha Withanage', is written over a yellow rectangular background.

Hemantha Withanage
Executive Director
Centre for Environmental Justice