

Remarks by Akira Kawasaki at FCCJ  
1 March 2016

As the fifth anniversary of March 11 approaches, we are here to present civil society's views on the reality and lessons of Fukushima. This is important especially because the government, while hailing the success of the so-called “recovery” process, has neglected the needs and livelihoods of those displaced and affected and the voices of victims have been marginalized. We cannot let this go.

I represent the civil society organization Peace Boat and the Fukushima Booklet Committee. Last March, the Committee launched the booklet called “10 Lessons from Fukushima” on the occasion of the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai. We made this booklet as we saw the Japanese and many other governments trying to avoid the inconvenient truth about Fukushima in their discussion on disaster risk reduction. Based on the experiences and testimony of local people, we outlined the reality of the Fukushima disaster and put forward lessons to share with citizens of countries with nuclear power plants and with plans to build nuclear power plants. We focused on how a nuclear disaster affects people's livelihoods and destroys communities, and drew lessons related to evacuation, access to information, radiation measurement for food, agriculture and fishing, decontamination, compensation, and conditions of workers.

The Japanese government and industry are now restarting nuclear power plants and even promoting their exports to developing countries. But we the citizens want to stop such moves and rather export these lessons to the world.

So far the booklet is available in 9 languages. We have already distributed about 14,000 hard copies, including 4,000 in English, 1,000 in Korean, and about 5-600 in each of Chinese, Spanish and French, in addition to numerous downloads online. We have 9 more languages in progress, with a view to next publicizing Hindi, Bengali and Polish by the end of this month. We hope the message of Fukushima will be well heard so they can lead to right and safe decisions in nuclear power plant debates.

Shamefully, the situation we outlined in the booklet a year ago has little changed. Still today more than 100,000 people are living in evacuation. Yet the government is trying to end support to their housing, and terminate compensation. And it is promoting the “return” policy, including to those places where decontamination has been clearly insufficient.

Victims have stood up against this. Many of their activities have been somehow fragmented because of differentiated treatments by the government according to distance from the nuclear plant, administrative districts, and other artificial conditions. It was remarkable in this context that Hidanren was formed last May as a broad coalition of groups involved in law suits calling for compensation and accountability. It has now 25,000 members representing 21 organizations, not only from Fukushima but also from all over Japan.

This morning's two main speakers are the leaders of Hidanren. Those are also the ones who I have worked with in efforts to share Fukushima's voice around the world.

Mr Hasegawa has spoken in many countries such as in Korea and Australia as well as at the European Parliament, warning how the people of Iitate village, 40-50 kilometers Northwest of Fukushima Daiichi, have been affected and how deceptive the government and officials have been in addressing the issue.

Ms Muto organized local actions when the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held a

nuclear related ministerial conference in Fukushima in 2012. She has also led legal proceedings to bring TEPCO executives to justice, which resulted in a criminal prosecution just yesterday – an overdue success.

Now I would like to turn the microphone to them.