



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

FORUM ENGAGEMENT FOR A SAFE AND NUCLEAR-FREE BLUE PACIFIC



◆ Overview

In 2011 a massive tsunami destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan. 1.25 million tons of nuclear wastewater remain in storage. Japan has announced its intention to start discharging this treated nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean this year, claiming it is safe to do so. According to the independent assessment of the PIF Panel of Experts, there is insufficient data to classify the impending discharge by Japan as safe for Pacific people and our ocean's biodiversity.

The Pacific Concerns

We are custodians of the Blue Pacific, 1/3 of the earth's surface. Our position is that the nuclear wastewater be released only when we have enough data and information to make a full assessment of impacts to human health and the environment.

◆ What is at Stake?

Nuclear contamination is a real and grave threat to the Pacific. Nuclear contamination is intergenerational and has permanently impacted the homes and peoples of the Republic of Marshall Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati and other communities with histories of nuclear testing.

Countries such as Korea, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Spain have also expressed concerns over Japan's plans. We are seeking information and assurance- the same information and assurance as the people of Japan as they continue the rehabilitation and reclaiming of land and lives in Fukushima.



◆ What has happened so far?

The Pacific Islands Forum have repeatedly met with Japan and repeatedly asked for access to the information and data we seek in order to make our decision on the safety of the discharge.

An independent panel of global experts (PIF Panel of Experts) on nuclear issues has been supporting Pacific nations. These experts are also providing an independent perspective to add to the perspective coming from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), whose main objective is to promote nuclear energy.

The PIF Panel of Experts are credible and independent but Japan has only provided limited data and information.

◆ Pacific Islands Forum Panel of Experts

Our scientific experts are very concerned. Their assessment, based on the limited information provided by Japan, includes:

- The quantity and quality of the data are inadequate, incomplete and inconsistent to support a decision to release tank waters.
- Given the complex and large nature of the task, the amount of ALPS (nuclear wastewater) testing that has been done is inadequate.
- Only a fraction of the tanks have been sampled and, in almost all cases, only nine of 64 total radionuclides are sampled in the data that has been shared.
- TEPCO's measurement protocol is statistically deficient and biased
- The considerations of ecological impact and bioconcentration are seriously deficient and do not provide a sound basis for estimating impact.

◆ Who is on the Panel

Dr. Ken Buesseler, Senior Scientist and Oceanographer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Dr. Arjun Makhijani, President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research

Dr. Ferenc (Jacob Rolf) Dalnoki-Veress, Scientist-in-Residence & Adjunct Professor at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Dr. Robert H. Richmond, Research Professor and Director at the Kewalo Marine Laboratory in the University of Hawaii at Manoa

Dr. Antony Hooker, Associate Professor, the University of Adelaide

◆ The Way Forward

We know Japan is a global partner and keen to adhere to obligations under international law so that any action within its territory, jurisdiction, or control—does not harm other states. We continue to call on the Japanese Government to respond to our concerns.

There is no urgency to discharge and there are also other options available to dispose of the nuclear wastewater. In this, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science, Japan can show global leadership in protecting our ocean for generations to come.

“The region is steadfast in its position that there should be no discharge until all parties verify through scientific means that such a discharge is safe”.

PIF Secretary General, Henry Puna