

Petition Letter on
Decision to Restart Ohi Nuclear Power Plant Reactors

15 June 2012

Dear Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda,

We, the undersigned, wish to express our considerable concerns about your recent decision to restart two reactors at the Ohi Nuclear Power Plant in the Fukui Prefecture. We ask that you reconsider this decision on account of the following reasons:

1. Our aim is not to intervene in the governance of Japan. Nevertheless, the impacts of nuclear power are transboundary in nature. There are no guarantees that the very real dangers that exist from nuclear power in Japan would not have impacts on other countries as well. Therefore, we have the right to ask that you reconsider your decision.

2. After the Fukushima accident, the public in Japan and in other countries realized that new, more reliable standards of regulation on nuclear power plant safety were needed as well as a truly independent nuclear safety regulation agency. However, this procedure has just started.

3. The situation at Fukushima Daiichi reactor no. 4 is still dangerous. This is a result of the unstable structure of the building, the health issues resulting from radiation, which has affected both Japanese and a number of Thai residents, who are also our beloved friends and family, and the difficulty in renovating the severely damage town of Fukushima. Furthermore, the Ohi nuclear reactor is situated on active fault lines, which pose a high risk of earthquakes. Therefore, restarting the Ohi reactor must be avoided at all costs.

4. Public polls have revealed that most of the Japanese public disagrees with your decision, as do the representatives in parliament and even some members of your party. We request that the Government of Japan gives priority to listening to the voice of the public, and respects the principles of

good governance and democracy by reconsidering the decision to restart the Ohi reactors.

We understand the difficult situation in Japan due to the electricity shortage resulting from the loss of nuclear power. However, you yourself Prime Minister once commented on the necessity to protect Japanese traditional livelihoods. We believe that choosing a path that would again make Japan dependent on nuclear power is not a desirable for the Japanese people. It is obvious that nuclear power is harmful for humankind. We hope to see a Japanese energy policy that prioritizes concrete energy efficiency measures and that also promotes renewable energy without the need to include nuclear power. Such measures would benefit the economy of Japan in the long run and would act as a role model in developing a sustainable power sector in Thailand and other Asian countries.

The energy saving campaign (Setsuden) last summer in Japan was a successful phenomenon. It reflected the strength and creativity of the Japanese people to unite in overcoming the disaster. This was also a beacon of hope to the world, including Thailand, to show that it is possible to have a prosperous society without nuclear power and that the unity and power of people can solve the energy crisis.

At the end of 2011, the 'Smart Setsuden Association' was established in Japan. We hope that this organization will act as a beneficial mechanism in adjusting the livelihoods of the Japanese to become an energy-efficient society and that it will encourage similar models in other countries. We see that Japan has a crucial role to play in the global society, so terminating the use of nuclear power in Japan will act as a forceful role model and an incentive for other countries to follow. There will be global benefits to reducing the risks of nuclear power. We also believe that the above-mentioned points also reflect the opinion of many Japanese people.

Respectfully yours,