

NUKE INFO TOKYO

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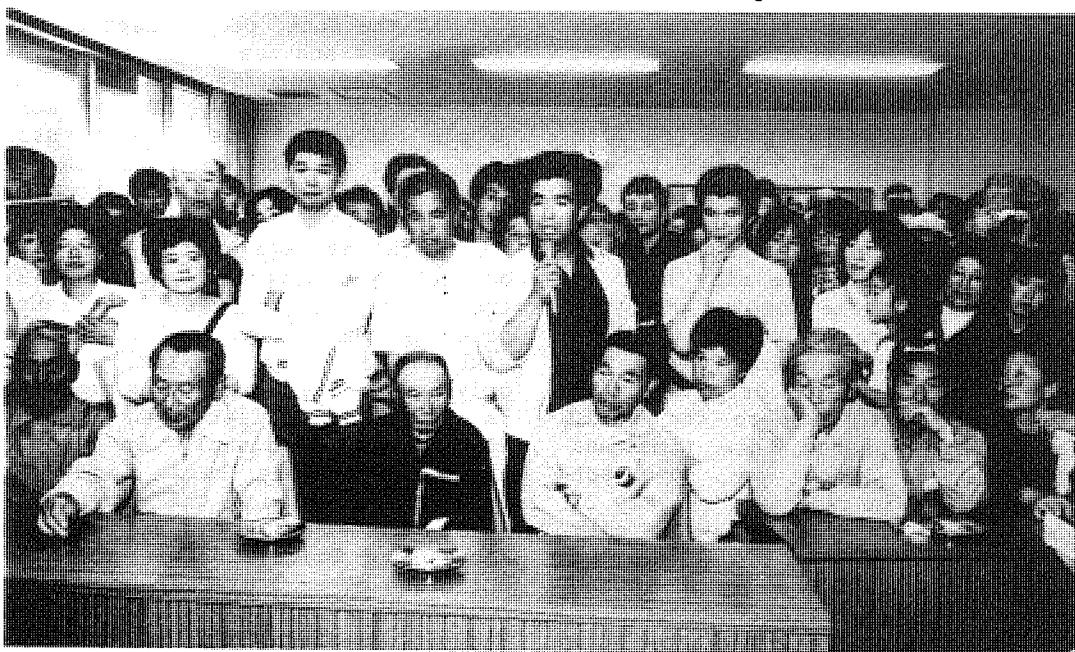
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Citizens Occupy City Hall for a Month in Suzu City



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Suzu city, on the tip of the Noto Peninsula on the Japan Sea coast, is no longer the quiet country town it used to be, as the controversy over four planned nuclear power plants heats up.

Two plants are planned by Kansai Electric and another two by Chubu Electric, both with the cooperation of Hokuriku Electric, which supplies the whole Hokuriku area.

At the mayoral election in April, two candidates opposing nuclear power won an overall majority but the former mayor, who supports the plants, got the most votes

and was reelected. Many citizens opposing nuclear power were disappointed with the result, but still felt confident that the tide was turning.

Opponents of the plants sent a request to Kansai Electric not to conduct a geological survey, which is actually the first step towards construction at the planned site. But this was completely ignored and the company announced on May 11 that the survey would begin the next day. Next morning the survey crew was confronted by about fifty people and refused entry to the site. The people decided to take turns watching the site so that the crew couldn't get in.

Meanwhile a group of elderly women went over to the city hall on May 19 and asked for a meeting with the mayor. When he refused to see them, they kept waiting. Then others started to join them until there was a crowd of 100 people. They finally left the city hall at two o'clock in the morning when the riot police were called in.

The next morning about 50 people, including the original group of women, went back to the hall. The mayor appeared this time and promised to make an important announcement in two days. On May 22 about 300 people went to the city hall, and another 200 waited outside. But the mayor's speech only made them angrier. He said it was impossible either to stop the survey or to cancel the plan.

The elderly women protested with tears in their eyes and some high school students told the mayor they would leave their home town once the plants were built. The mayor promised to meet the prefectural government and Kansai Electric again, and left the room. Three days later it was revealed that he was in hospital.

The people in the city hall decided to stay there until they got a positive reply from the mayor. They brought in futons, food, even a phone and a television, and their "occupation" was widely publicized

in the local papers and on TV.

The fish retailers' union, two of the seven fishermen's unions, and Buddhist monks from 49 temples passed a resolution opposing nuclear power and a famous sake producing company also came out in opposition.

As the occupation continued and the news spread among anti-nuke groups, supporting letters and telegrams started to pour in. The meeting room in the city hall now looked quite lived-in, with a thin straw carpet on the floor, various household items on the tables, and letters, banners, and messages on the walls.

At the site, people kept an eye on the crew and kept them away. As soon as they got the news that the crew was on its way, 200 or more people rushed to the site to stop them. The crew only managed to get on to the site for brief periods on two days.

Back at the city hall the occupation continued. On June 3, twenty representatives of groups opposing the plants had a meeting with the Suzu city assembly. But only one of the 17 assembly members, is opposed to nuclear power and the meeting was unfruitful. On June 10 about 350 people held a protest rally right outside the city hall. This included some people from the site where Chubu Electric plans to build the other 2 plants.

Because of the prolonged occupations of the city hall and the site itself, Kansai Electric announced on June 16 that it would postpone the survey. However, it emphasized that this was only temporary and it had no intention of reconsidering the plan. Opponents of the plants received the news as a partial victory, but weren't fully satisfied. They were asking for the total abolition of the plan and the occupation of the city hall continued.

On June 22, one month after the occupation began, people decided to leave the city hall, when they heard that the riot police were to be

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Protests against H-bomb Dropped off Okinawa

The recent report of a hydrogen bomb falling into the sea from the US aircraft carrier Ticonderoga, off Okinawa, clearly demonstrated that Japan is surrounded by nuclear weapons. It also made the people of Japan extremely anxious about safety.

Peace groups in Okinawa immediately staged a protest with rallies and marches. Protest actions were also organized in Yokosuka, where Ticonderoga docked two days after the incident.

In Hiroshima, a grass-roots organization, Peacelink Hiroshima, Iwakuni, & Kure, staged a sit-in on May 14 in front of the Peace Dome. Both Iwakuni and Kure are located close to Hiroshima, which was destroyed by an atomic bomb, yet Iwakuni has a US Airforce base and Kure a naval port, and both of them accept US war planes and battleships with nuclear weapons on board. Peacelink has demanded that Hiroshima not be used as a base for nuclear weapons carriers.

One of the most impressive actions was the sea protest staged by Peace Squadron. A "Peace Squadron," consisting of one sailing boat, two speed boats and seven rowing boats, sailed into the military port of Yokosuka on May 28. They got as close to the US battleships as they were legally allowed to. Most of the battleships were carrying nuclear weapons. The protesters carried banners and flags expressing their anger to the American sailors through loudspeakers. The non-violent, direct action had been planned by grass-roots groups in Yokosuka for some time.

The Peacelink Hiroshima, Iwakuni, and Kure staged a similar action on the same day. Four rowing boats sailed into Kure port for a

training exercise on how to stop battleships with nuclear weapons on board. Both of these actions were covered by the media fairly well.

Another encouraging piece of news was the move made by some local administrations to criticize the central government's position. The government still insists that there has never been any prior consultation with the US government on the issue of bringing nuclear weapons into Japanese territorial waters, such as is required under the Japan-US Security Treaty, and therefore no nuclear weapons have ever been brought in. They say they believe and trust the US government. Now at last some local administrations have started to raise objections to the government's position.

Since the revelation of the Ticonderoga accident, local administrations such as Okinawa, and other cities where US bases are located, have submitted protest letters to the government signed by local assemblies or governors. The tone of the letters is somewhat moderate, since they merely say citizens are not satisfied with the explanation given by the government, but this is the first time that so many local administrations have expressed their opinions on the issue. Up to now they have just reported to the people what the government has said. But now things are changing. The grass-roots groups are also encouraged by this move and are even more determined to put pressure on the local administrations to work towards a nuclear free nation. □

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brought in. So the occupation is over for now, but the people are determined to continue the fight. □

Tokyo Electric Holds Shareholders Meeting amidst Mounting Accidents at Fukushima

Recently there have been a number of accidents and malfunctions at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants. Fukushima I has six reactors and Fukushima II has four. Two or three of these reactors are always out of operation for regular inspections. In addition to that Unit 3 of Plant II has been out of operation for a long time due to a recirculating pump breakdown accident (see Nuke Info Tokyo No.10). Since repeated accidents have put one or other of the reactors out of operation continuously - even if only for a few days - electricity users are now expressing concern over the supply of electricity.

Then, in June, Tokyo Electric went ahead and restarted Unit 5 of Fukushima I, in which, during a periodic inspection, cracks had been discovered in the shafts of two recirculating pumps. The company replaced the shaft of only one pump with a spare, and restarted the plant without replacing the other one. On June 28, anti-nuclear shareholders forced the company to hold a meeting to give an explanation to the people about the shaft cracks.

It was revealed that cracks in the shafts had frequently been discovered in all of the reactors, and that upon the discovery of the cracks the company had removed the shafts, ground off the cracks, and saved them to be used as replacements if other cracked shafts were discovered. The recirculating pump in Fukushima I-5 had had these parts replaced before, but new cracks had formed in them. In spite of these new cracks, Fukushima I-5 has resumed operation with damaged shafts, and it is intended to replace them at the next periodic

inspection. The day on which the reactor resumed commercial operation - June 29 - was also the day Tokyo Electric held its shareholders' meeting. Five or six anti-nuclear shareholders who attended this meeting asked questions about the company's attitude.

One of them had submitted 125 questions to management in advance. The president, vice president, and directors answered all of these questions at high speed, taking nearly 2 hours. When measures subsequently came up for discussion, each was met with motions for amendments, so that the greater part of the 2-hour, 13-minute meeting was spent on the nuclear power issue. When it was time to elect officers, there were amendment motions nominating an anti-nuclear power scientist, and a person now running in the national elections as an anti-nuke candidate.

As shareholders' meetings for Japanese companies are generally very short, it was highly unusual that the meeting lasted over two hours.

Electric power companies all hold their shareholders' meetings at the same time, and anti-nuke shareholders also appeared at the meetings of Kyushu Electric and Hokkaido Electric, submitting written questions and making motions for amendments.

The fact that these people are shareholders made it possible to call a sudden explanatory meeting the previous day, and to bring out various kinds of information that had heretofore not been made public; it was also possible to hold a small anti-nuke gathering outside Tokyo Electric's main office, where the shareholders' meeting was held.

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1.2 Million Sign Petition to Phase Out Nuclear Power

The National Network for the Enactment of a Nuclear Phase Out Law has disclosed the interim results of the petition drive now under way throughout the country. The number of signatures collected stands at 1,196,000 as of June 16.

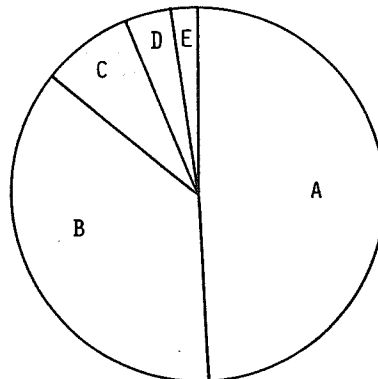
The petition was proposed last year to prompt the Diet to pass a law for the complete phase out of nuclear power plants and related fuel cycle facilities in Japan (Nuclear Phase-Out Law)(see NIT No.6). Although signature collection began in January this year, it has taken several months for the movement to spread throughout Japan because it has only been publicized by word of mouth, and signatures obtained by approaching people individually. Though far behind the target of 10 million, the 1.2 million signatures collected in such a way should not be undervalued. Since larger organizations like labor unions and livelihood cooperative associations have now started signature collection, many more signatures are expected to be collected from now on.

Another important part of the nuclear phase-out movement is a nationwide campaign to promote the feasibility and desirability of a switch to a nuclear-free policy. For this purpose the Network has recently published a booklet entitled "Our Starting Line -- A Proposal for a Nuclear Free Energy Plan in Japan." The booklet shows that electric power demand in Japan can be met even at its peak in mid-summer without relying on nuclear energy, and recommends a rapid phase out of nuclear power in view of its enormous risks.

The booklet also recommends an urgent policy switch from the high energy growth strategy now adopted

by the government to a conservation strategy based upon energy saving and high-efficiency technology. It also urges the Government to put more money into the development of renewable energy sources. More than 45% of the energy R & D budget is still devoted to nuclear energy in Japan as compared to less than 5% for natural energy sources (see Figure).

EXPENDITURES ON ENERGY R & D
BY ENERGY SOURCE (F.Y.1987)



| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| A: NUCLEAR ENERGY | 49.4% |
| B: ENERGY CONSERVATION | 36.6% |
| C: FOSSIL ENERGY | 7.7% |
| D: NATURAL ENERGY | 3.9% |
| E: OTHERS | 2.2% |

The booklet is expected, as its title suggests, to serve as an incentive to extensive discussions among the public about nuclear energy and the most desirable energy future for Japan.

The National Network plans to stage a big rally on September 16-17 in Osaka to give a further boost to the nuclear phase out campaign.

National Network for
Enactment of Nuclear
Phase Out Law

Debate between Citizens and Electric Co.

A public debate between Chubu Electric Company and anti-nuclear citizens was held in Nagoya on June 24th. The debate was first proposed by citizens concerned about the safety of operating Hamaoka No.1 reactor, which had been shut down because of water leakage in the in-core monitor housing of the reactor last September.

Chubu Electric was at first very reluctant to participate. The citizens had to negotiate with the company many times, and the talks were sometimes so wearisome that they felt it was hopeless. But finally, the company agreed to a two-part debate, the first two hours given over to a technical discussion of the recent shutdown, and the final hour to a discussion of energy issues. The pro and anti-nuclear camps were each allocated 250 seats.

Some 50 people lined up more than an hour and a half before the debate started. All the tickets were sold out immediately and the heated debate raged non-stop for three hours.

The leakage in the water coolant system occurred on 17th September, 1988. The 13mm crack that led to the leakage developed in the stainless steel tube carrying water to the reactor pressure vessel. The officials announced the crack was caused by "stress corrosion cracking" and "high operation temperature" as well as "long exposure to heat during welding." But the crack developed only in "one of the 30 tubes and will be repaired to the required safety standard to re-start operation in July."

The citizens wanted Chubu Electric to publicize the results of the investigation that they submitted to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Nuclear

Safety Commission. They demanded to see actual photographs of the damaged part and what repairs had been done to ensure it was "safe" to resume operation.

However, Chubu rejected all their demands, saying, "We've submitted them to MITI and the Nuclear Safety Commission, and they say it's safe, so what more is there to worry about? We have publicized the results in the newspaper, so that's all the public need to know."

The citizens were outraged by this response and retorted: "Chubu Electric is forcing us to rely on them without giving any evidence to prove the safety of the reactor. Their announcement that it is safe is like correcting your own examination paper and saying it was perfect."

In the debate on energy issues, Chubu Electric attacked the citizens' plan for alternative and sustainable energy by saying it was unrealistic and forcing people to save energy in such a consumer society would require strong coercion by the authorities. Now that people are used to using so much electricity, it is impossible to do without nuclear energy, they said.

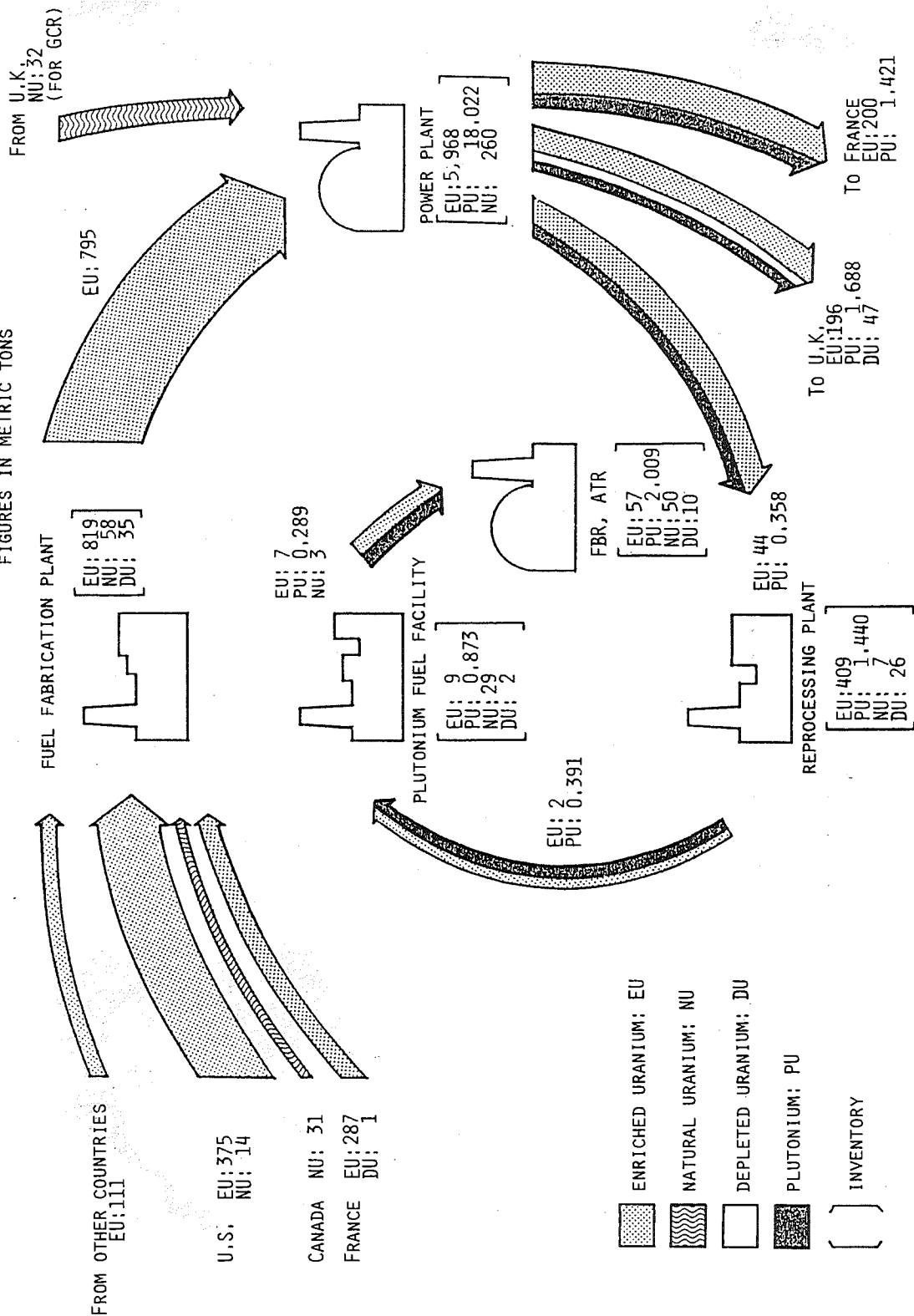
In the end, the debate did not succeed in establishing any common ground. But it was a significant meeting in that it was the first time the electric company and opponents of nuclear power had sat down at the same table to discuss the issue. □

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This was considerably different from one month ago, when people who had gathered to protest an accident at a power plant were immediately removed by police. □

NUCLEAR FUEL FLOW IN JAPAN (1988)

FIGURES IN METRIC TONS



ANTI-NUKE GROUPS ACTIVE AROUND JAPAN

"Nausicaa" and "We Need No Nukes! Hiroshima Network"

"Nausicaa" is the heroine of the famous animated film, "Nausicaa of Wind Valley." Born after a nuclear war had totally destroyed and contaminated the earth, she loved and fought for all living things in the contaminated world. We chose her name for our group so that we can live like her. The group was formed by 5 women with various occupations (teachers, housewives, and a shopkeeper), in October, 1987, at Yoshida, Hiroshima Prefecture. Now it consists of 12 women. We have re-educated ourselves by reading books, going to lectures and watching videos on nuclear issues, and we have collected signatures for a petition against nukes. For most of our members it was the first time they had been involved in action against nuclear power. We were just "ordinary women." But we all love living things and the beauty of nature, so none of us can accept nuclear power, which will hurt and destroy our children and the world.

"We Need No Nukes! Hiroshima Network" was organized in March, 1988. It consists of several anti-nuke groups and people around Hiroshima. Until 1987, there were only one or two anti-nuke groups in Hiroshima, apart from the biggest organization "GENSUIKIN," which has played an important part in the world-wide peace movement. We have held a number of public meetings, where we have shown the documentary film, "Hopi Prophecy," and put on lectures with the cooperation of other groups.

Chugoku Electric Power Company has built the second unit of Shimane

Nuclear Power Plant and now plans to build another plant at Kaminoseki, a beautiful fishing village on the Seto Inland Sea in Yamaguchi Pref. Half of the people of Kaminoseki are strongly opposed to it. We in the "Hiroshima Network" think we should protest against Chugoku Electric here in Hiroshima, because Yamaguchi is our neighboring prefecture.

We hold lectures once a month, we have collected signatures for a petition, printed leaflets, and taken action together with the people of Kaminoseki.

Recently we received the more alarming news that high-level radioactive waste may be brought in to be buried here in the Chugoku area. They say the area is granite suitable for burying radioactive waste. We have also found out that the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation" has obtained mining rights for uranium and thorium in Kuchiwa, Hiroshima.

It is crucial that we continue to monitor nuclear issues and keep a close watch on the power companies.





Tomari No.1 Reactor Goes on Line

Tomari No.1 reactor began commercial operation on June 22. Hokkaido Electric Power Co.'s first reactor, it is a PWR-type light water reactor with an output capacity of 579 MW. It brings the total number of reactors in operation (including Fugen, an advanced thermal reactor) to 38, with a total output of 29,445 MW.

Japan Atomic Industrial Forum Survey on Overseas Cooperation

The Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. (JAIF) published in June the findings of questionnaires it sent out to Japanese nuclear-related institutions concerning cooperation with developing countries during fiscal 1988. According to their findings, 22 institutions sent a total of 171 experts to developing countries. However, 93% stayed less than one month, and the report states that it is still very difficult to send Japanese experts overseas for long periods. Meanwhile, 13 institutions accepted a total of 344 trainees and researchers, and twelve universities accepted 62 students from developing countries.

The Science and Technology Agency's exchange program sponsored the highest number of trainees and researchers and also dispatched the highest number of experts (20% each), and personnel exchanges through this program are on the increase. The number of trainees

and researchers accepted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency has also increased greatly, and accounts for 17% of the total, while IAEA dispatches 11% and accepts 7%. By country, exchanges with China account for 27% of the total, Taiwan 19%, Indonesia 16%, South Korea 13% and Thailand and Malaysia 5% each.

LDP Suffers Dramatic Defeat in Upper House Election

The ruling Liberal-Democratic Party suffered an unprecedented defeat in the House of Councilors election held on July 23. The LDP has lost its majority in the Upper House for the first time since the Party's founding in 1955, while the Socialist Party has doubled its seats. The result is certain to have a substantial impact on various aspects of Japanese politics including nuclear issues (see our next issue for details).

N-Accident Scale Introduced

The Natural Resources and Energy Agency has announced that it will adopt a nine-level scale for nuclear power plant accidents. Their real intention is to give the public the impression that accidents are not serious, especially now that there are so many accidents occurring all the time.

The levels range from zero(!) to eight, nine levels altogether. According to this ranking system, the Three Mile Island accident is

rated level 5 and The Chernobyl accident level 8. The object is to try and convince people that disastrous accidents are much less serious than they really are by claiming they only rate such-and-such a level.

By this rating system, out of the 400 or so accidents that occurred between 1981 and 1987, 51% are rated zero, 37% level 1, 12% level 2 and none are rated level 3 or more.

Utilities Cut Off Power Supply to Maruki Museum

The Maruki Museum in Higashi Matsuyama City, Saitama Prefecture, which houses a famous masterpiece entitled "Genbaku no Zu" (Hiroshima Panels) painted jointly by an artist couple, Iri and Toshi Maruki, has had its power supply cut off by Tokyo Electric Power Co. since May 12. The Marukis refused to pay 24% of their electricity bill, equivalent to the ratio of nuclear plants to the total number of plants operated by Tokyo Electric, as a token of their protest against

nuclear power. The Marukis have told the utility company that they will pay the whole bill if the company transmits power generated by facilities other than nuclear reactors.

Cracks in Bolts of Ikata Reactor as Expected

Cracks were discovered as expected in the fixing bolts of the primary coolant pump outlet vanes of Ikata 1, during a periodic inspection by the owner Shikoku Electric Power Co., Ltd. The inspection started nine days earlier than scheduled, partly because there had been a sit-in by citizens groups at the company's head office (see this column previous issue). Twenty-two of the forty-eight bolts had developed cracks, and all of them are to be replaced with an improved type of bolt. Damage to twelve steam generator tubes was also discovered, and the tubes are to be plugged. In addition to these repairs, nine of the control rods are to be replaced, too, as a "preventive caution." This damage demonstrates that the problem of aging facilities is becoming more serious.

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NUKE INFO TOKYO is a bi-monthly newsletter which aims to provide foreign friends with up-to-date information on the Japanese nuclear industry, as well as on the movements against this industry in Japan. Please write to us for subscription (subscription rate: supporting subscriber \$40/year, subscriber \$20/year). We would also appreciate receiving information and newsletters from groups abroad in exchange for this newsletter.

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