

# NUKE INFO TOKYO

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**Citizens' Nuclear Information Center**

No. 49

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## CNIC CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY



(Photos by A. Imai)

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The Citizens' Nuclear Information Center celebrated its 20th anniversary on September 23. About 100 people including prominent figures of local anti-nuke movements, came to the celebration party from all over Japan to say not just congratulations but to pledge further cooperation in the anti-nuke and anti-plutonium movement as well as expectations for CNIC's further works on science and information.

The residents' movements against nuclear power plant in Japan started in late sixties in some localities and grew nationwide by the mid-seventies as nuclear power generation became the central government energy policy and number of

planned reactors increased drastically.

In response to the growth of anti-nuke awareness among the public, some scientists and engineers started critical analysis of reactor safety and public education on the dangers of nuclear power. In a society like Japan where the government and bureaucrats have a great deal of power and when everybody believed in economic growth based on advanced technology, criticism was extremely difficult financially and politically. Thanks largely to Gensuikin (Japan Congress against A-and H-Bomb), the concerned scientists and engineers established a joint office in September 1975, with Mituo Taketani, a famous theoretical physicist, as the executive director, and Jinzaburo Takagi, a nuclear chemist who had just quit Tokyo Metropolitan University, as managing director.

It was the start of CNIC. In the beginning it was just a very tiny room with books and documents disorderly gathered and there was only one staffer to deal with the mounting piles of information on all areas of the nuclear issue. Takagi wanted CNIC not just to be a library but to be an NGO organization of active scientists and citizens aiming at creating "Science for the Citizens" or rather more hopefully "Science by the Citizens".

The first decade was, however, very difficult with no general public awareness of the critical scientific works outside the establishment. After the Chernobyl accident, public support for CNIC grew drastically. In 1987, Takagi took the position of the executive director and CNIC decided to work more internationally for a secure and safe world. In accordance with this policy, CNIC started publishing NUKE INFO TOKYO in October 1987. In the first issue of NIT, Takagi wrote.

"We still are having similar difficulties, and are therefore starting our newsletter only as a small bi-monthly publication-- at the moment. We are determined, however, to continue Nuke Info Tokyo for the foreseeable future."

The status of "small bi-monthly publication"

continues. But when we wrote "continue for the foreseeable future", we thought of "at least 5-6 years" with 30-40 issues. We are pleased to be publishing, this, the 49th issue and we are quite sure we will continue to publish for another "foreseeable future". CNIC began to organize international conferences, starting with the 1991 International Plutonium Conference and focusing mainly on affecting Japan's plutonium program with some success. Although the plutonium issues remain of utmost importance for CNIC, we would like to concentrate our efforts now on stopping the growth of the Asian nuclear industry which the Japanese nuclear industry is giving extensive backing.

We believe CNIC's twenty years of campaigning has made it a domestically as well as internationally acknowledged, credible nuclear information center for citizens from across the whole world. It has contributed much to improving the social standing of the anti-nuclear groups and NGOs in general in Japan. An example of this is the recent awarding of the 5th Iihatobu Prize (Kenji Miyazawa Memorial Prize) to J. Takagi for his social and scientific activities. This is important since the awarders, the Miyazawa Kenji Society and Hanamaki City (Kenji's hometown) are conservative organizations (Kenji Miyazawa was a famous writer and ecologist who died in 1933 but is still quite popular).

Although we have achieved some success during our pioneering work in Japan, what we have done is very limited and we know well that we still have a long way to go toward a nuclear free world.



Dr. Takagi (Right)

# Against French and Chinese Nuclear Testing

## OUTRAGE, AS FRANCE AND CHINA SNUB WORLD OPINION

By August 17 the Chinese had tested two bombs. By October 1 (local time) the French had done likewise. These acts are a snub to the world at large. As the other nations try to reduce their arsenals and are striving to create a nuclear weapon free world France and China stubbornly go against this trend. Neither country seems to see what a massive break of faith the testing represents to the non-nuclear states. Furthermore it only acts to encourage the renegade states on the world stage who might be considering the nuclear option.

France and China must end their testing, that is obvious. But what is less obvious and much more insidious is the plutonium trade that goes hand in hand with the nuclear weapons industry. The second cannot be irradiated from the world without dealing with the first. Japan cannot ignore its part in this vicious circle, while Japan pays to have its plutonium reprocessed in France it is a witting accomplice in France's actions. To protest the French tests and the plutonium connection with Japan, we put an opinion ad in the Asahi newspaper on August 9. This is Nagasaki Day and is the anniversary of the first ever use of a plutonium bomb.

Due to the secrecy that surrounds the testing on the atolls and at Lop Nor in Xinjiang the exact condition of the sites is unknown. Nor is the damage to the local people and environment. They test and declare it safe but then refuse to release test data they have accumulated so it is impossible to find out the truth. France and China should disclose these data only then can an independent analysis be done.

All of the outrage at France and China needed to find a common voice so to represent the various groups, CNIC along with the People's Forum 2001, formed an umbrella organization, on August 28. It is called the People's Network Against Nuclear Testing (PNANT). PNANT.

brought together some 240 organizations and 500 individuals, including many Diet members and local government representatives. It allowed the protesters to show a united front to these unrecalcitrant nations.

On September 2 the anti-nuclear protest groups in Japan organized a rally and march in Yoyogi-park and central Tokyo. Over 10,000 people attended and offered their support. Both rally and march were widely covered in the press.

After the tests many protests were held outside both the French and the Chinese Embassies. People from all walks of life came to show their anger at France. Citizens' groups including CNIC, read out formal protests of the test and delivered them to the Embassy.

People have responded strongly to calls for a boycott of French goods because it is an easy way for them to personally protest the French testing policy. It is unfortunate that it hurts the French people but it is they who voted President Chirac into power and it is they who have the most influence over him. It also appears that most of the French people do not agree with the tests so it behoves the French people to exert that influence and stop Chirac.

**意見広告**

**日本の核のミナモトも  
ゴメンです**

**フランスの核実験は  
ゴメンです**

19年前の8月9日に爆弾に投下された原爆には、プルトニウムを核燃料が用いられました。

**日本のプルトニウム政策に反対を!**

フランスの核実験をなんとしてもやめさせましょう。私たちもそのために抗議しています。同時に、自らのプルトニウム・コンクッションを削減しなくては、核兵器を世界に拡散することができない。これが私たちの考えです。日本の核実験の中止(核兵器開発の中止)は、プルトニウムを呼び出すため、真一歩の工業に押し戻され、再評価されています。再評価の結果フランスで買収されたプルトニウムは、1995年8月9日に真実行い、減少し核兵器製造に活用されなくなりました。これらの報道が、世界中の人々の強い反対や要求を呼んだことは間違いありません。とくに子どもは、その被害を被る可能性のある脆弱な存在です。日本自身の核の廃止を断つことによつてこそ、フランスの核実験にも大きな反発のメッセージとなるのです!

私たち原子力資料情報室は、日本の原爆やプルトニウム問題に、産業界と協議した産業界の被害の立場から取り組んでいます。核実験のたぐいの、地産地消の核燃料センターを目標して、この本もその一、活動のすべてを市民によるられています。みなさまの賛助を歓迎いたします。お申し込みは、(株)原子力資料情報室 事務局 までお願いいたします。(送料別) 500円

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The opinion ad we put in Asahi Newspaper.

**DIALOGUE WITH FRENCH DIPLOMAT ---JINZABURO TAKAGI**

In the end of August, S. Iwasaki, executive director of the Peoples' Forum 2001, and I, representing 230 NGOs in Japan, asked for a representative of the French Embassy to meet and talk with us. The meeting was realized on September 14, only after the first testing. Surprisingly, the meeting lasted two hours, and was interesting for me in that the French diplomat in charge tried to find every conceivable reason to justify French testing, none of which sounded reasonable or even plausible. I had the impression that the French government is really cornered. Here are the main points discussed (F: Philippe Lefort, Councillor of French Embassy in Japan, J: Takagi and /or Iwasaki).

**F:** We understand the feeling of Japanese people who suffered the A-bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but Japanese opinions tend to be very lopsided as far as history is concerned. First, France was not responsible at all for A-bombing. Secondly, Hideki Tojo, Japan's Wartime Prime Minister, would have had no hesitation in using the A-bomb, if he had had one. Thirdly, I believe that the nuclear deterrent force has contributed greatly to keeping the world mostly peaceful for 50 years.

**J:** Do you think the nuclear deterrent force is necessary even after the end of the cold war?

**F:** Absolutely. We need NATO for security in Europe, just as you need US-Japan Security Treaty. These are security treaties based on nuclear umbrella.

**J:** So, we are against these treaties. In accordance with the consensus at the time of the NPT Review and Extension Conference, the whole world is now making efforts for nuclear disarmament and towards abolition of nuclear weapons. French and Chinese testing are counter to this stream and greatly discourage the efforts of other countries.

**F:** The French testings are actually no "resumption" but belong to the final series of trials to finish the testings which had been suspended for 4 years by Mitterand.

**J:** Anyway, they are real nuclear testings with high yield. There are serious concerns over possible damage of atolls and radioactive leakage.

**F:** That argument is not well based. The testing will not affect the environment adversely. All the three scientific missions to Moruroa Atoll

concluded that the past underground testing at Moruroa and Fangataufa had no observable hazardous effect to the environment and residents.

**J:** That is not correct. The Atkinson mission in 1983 and Cousteau mission in 1987 observed damages to the moruroa atoll such as surface subsidence, fissures and submarine land slides. There are also scientific evidences that radioactive nuclides produced by the underground testing leaked to the marine environment.

**F:** You are probably talking about tritium which the Atkinson mission detected. But it came from the past atmospheric testings.

**J:** But the level is too high to be attributed to the past atmospheric testings. How do you explain the high level of iodine-131 which the Cousteau mission detected?

**F:** Well-- well, we have many documents that provide evidences for the safety of underground testings in the South Pacific.

**J:** Are you prepared to give us the copies of the documents?

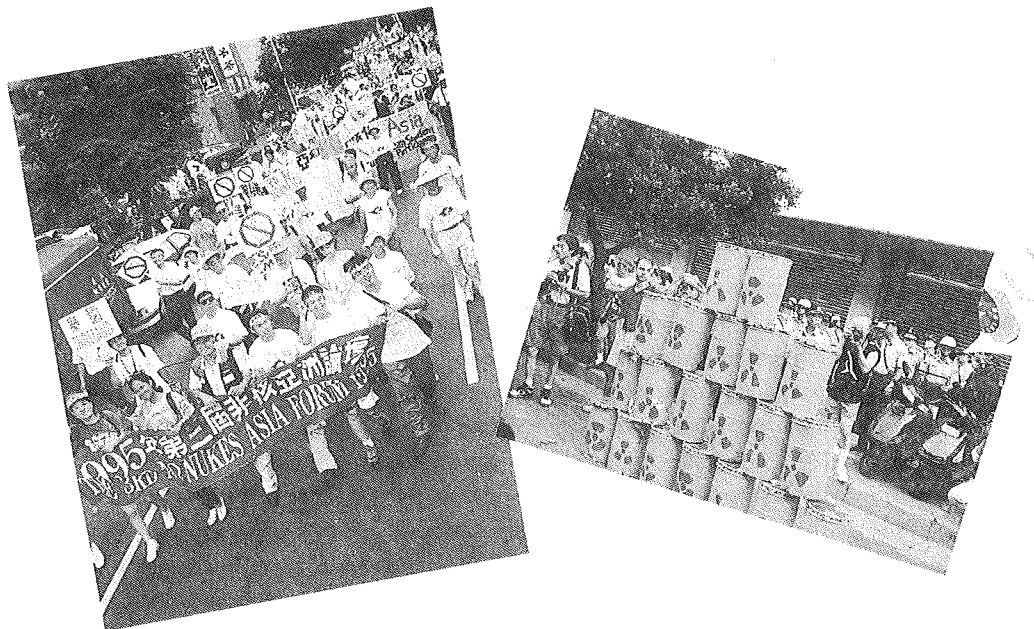
**F:** For the non-confidential documents, yes. But, I am not sure, which are confidential and which are not, for the moment. We will invite foreign scientific mission(s) to Moruroa after the planned testings are over?

**J:** Could you invite me?

**F:** Ugh..., well, we will ask the IAEA for the choice of scientists.

(The French officer gave us a copy of a summary prepared by the his government which presented the basic findings of the three mission in its own way. In it the high level of iodine-131 detected in plankton of Moruroa is attributed to accidental leakage due to drilling of the atoll).

**ANTI-NUCLEAR PAN-ASIAN DEMONSTRATIONS**



20,000 Met in Taipei to protest N-testing and Taiwan's new N-plant plan on 3rd Sep 1995. The third No Nukes Asia Forum was held in Taiwan from 2nd to 6th Sep.



10,000 Japanese rally in central Tokyo to protest French and Chinese N-testing on 2nd Sep. 1995.  
(Photos by A. Imai)

## Cesium 137 Detected in Glass Logs

An abnormality has been detected in one of the 28 high-level waste glass logs returned to Japan from France this April. The logs, which were shipped to Rokkasho-mura by sea, began undergoing pre-storage inspection on May 19 inside the storage facility. These comprise of the dimension and weight measurements, visual inspections, thermal emission measurements, surface contamination inspections, radioactivity measurements, and confinement inspection.

The abnormality was discovered during the confinement inspection on the glass log designated number 1985C (owned by Tokyo Electric), which was the last to be tested. In the confinement inspection three logs are put together in an air-tight container which is evacuated to check for possible radioactive leakage from the logs. After one hour's evacuation the filter sheet at the outlet of the container is measured for radioactivity. The standard background radioactivity for one hour's evacuation is 4.5 Bq. On August 10 when the measurement was performed on "log 1985C" and two other logs which had already tested normal, the reading for cesium 137 was 17 Bq/h. In a subsequent inspection the highest detected value of 85 Bq/h was found on August 15.

Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. (JNFL) explained these abnormally high values in an announcement by saying, "(1) Results of a nuclide analysis on the radioactive substances showed that most of this was due to radioactive cesium; (2) if the cause was a leak from inside, radioactive ruthenium should have been detected as well; (3) if the cause was a leak, the same amount of radioactive cesium should have been detected by each measurement, but this was not the case." Thus, JNFL concluded, "The glass log is sound, and [the abnormal readings occurred because] a very small amount of radioactive cesium has attached itself to the log's surface, and some of that cesium became free." On August 24 and 25 the third inspection was

conducted on the basis of this view. In order to eliminate the effects of cesium 137, the air inside the confinement test apparatus was drawn for about two hours, and measurements performed about 10 hours later. The result was apparently below the standard value, and it was announced that all pre-storage inspections had therefore been completed.

However, nothing at all has been revealed about the real cause of this problem. JNFL announced that "radioactive cesium 137 alone was detected," but the radioactivity data for the time the ship left the port in France (as made public by JNFL) also show that the amount of ruthenium 106 present is 1/385th that of cesium 137, it is therefore very likely that ruthenium is below the detection limit. On the other hand, the fact that radiation other than that of cesium 137 is hardly detected might suggest the possibility that only readily volatile cesium is leaking out through pinholes or similar exits. And if contamination occurred during the log's manufacturing process, it is possible that the canister's surface would be contaminated with all the radioactive nuclides contained in high-level liquid waste. It is necessary to thoroughly investigate the causes of contamination from inside the canisters rather than from outside. Even if the anomaly is really due to surface contamination as JNFL maintains, it implies that the surface contaminated HLW canister was transported from Cherbourg to Rokkasho across the Atlantic, the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean.

If the first shipment of high level-wastes returned to Japan is contaminated or leaking, it is possible that the large shipments to follow might end up with the same problem. For the purposes of determining the cause and to objectively assess safety, the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center has asked the Science and Technology Agency, JNFL, and Aomori Prefecture to release all data on the glass logs and the results of the recent tests.

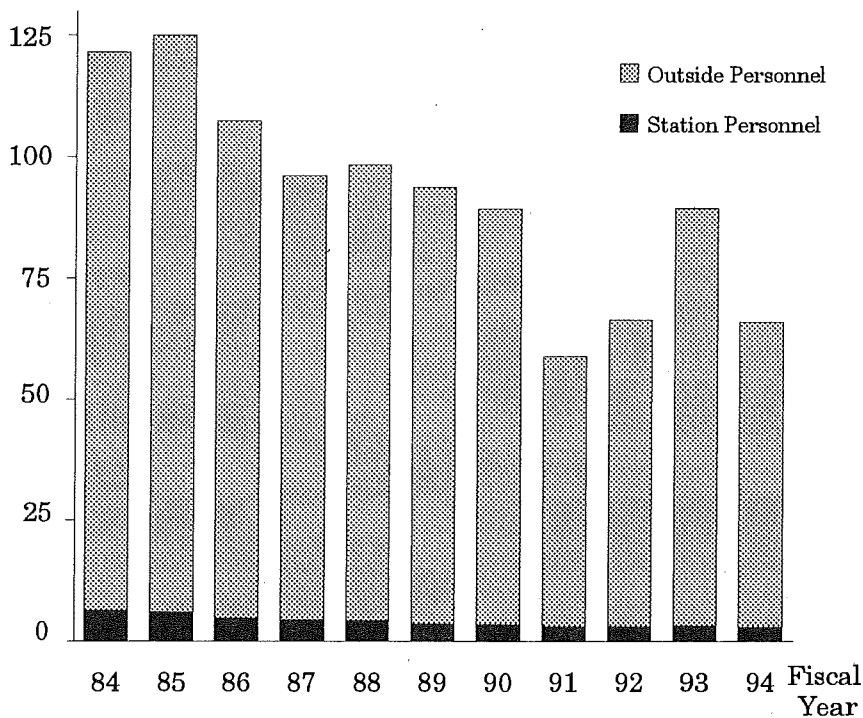
**DATA**

**Annual Collective Dose of N-plant Workers**

(person-Sv)

Fiscal Year	Station Personnel	Outside Personnel	Total
84	6.21	115.34	121.56
85	5.72	119.33	125.05
86	4.66	102.78	107.44
87	4.17	91.94	96.12
88	4.14	94.25	98.39
89	3.46	90.34	93.80
90	3.29	86.03	89.29
91	2.86	56.06	59.93
92	2.92	63.53	66.44
93	2.98	86.40	89.39
94	2.72	63.42	66.10

person-Sv



## Anti-Nuke Who's Who: Abe Family



Yasunori (Right), Moe (Center) Abe  
Photo by Tsutomu Kolwa

Our family has 9 members; my father, Soetsu, my mother, Takako, my husband, Yasunori, my daughters, Ai(14), Momi(13), Yui(10) and Moe(8), and my son, Kakeru(11). Moe's birthday is the 28th March. Which is the same date as the TMI accident.

Our anti-nuke struggle began the day my father, by chance, attended an Onagawa Town Assembly and heard an invitation from the nuclear power industry to be the site of a nuclear power plant, in 1967. Prior to this, he had been involved in the Anti A- and H-bombs Movement, and was deeply concerned about environmental issues, such as the destruction of environment by A- and H-bombs, the excessive development of regions after the war. Now his concerns were to include this invitation from the nuclear power industry. Since then, we have campaigned vigorously against nuclear power. We have taken every possible action, such as having study meetings, organizing gatherings of friends and like minded people, trying to persuade local residents of the folly of nuclear power or demonstrating against the Japanese government and Tohoku Electric Power Co.

In 1979, my husband Yasunori came to Onagawa. I met him through the struggle for compensation for the people affected by the Minamata disease, at Tokyo where I spent my school days. After that, he lived in Minamata for a time before coming to Onagawa. The connection between Minamata and N-plants, could be thought to be tenuous, but I sometimes think they both reduce to the same thing. The little man suffering for the benefit of big industry.

It is a matter for regret that the nuclear plants were constructed and have been operating since June 1984. The rate of depopulation in Onagawa is the worst in Miyagi Prefecture, and under these circumstances, many townspeople have jobs in or connected with the nuclear power plants. Given the reliance the local people have on the utility company, directly or indirectly through their relations and friends, it is not surprising that they are reluctant to protest or speak out. It is very similar to the situation in Minamata where the effects of the poisoning continue to be felt but the townspeople avoid facing up to the cause of the disease because they depended on just one industry for jobs. The Chisso.

In Japan, we suffered a great earthquake named the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake on 17th January this year. We feel this kind of earthquake is also our affair. Because where we live on the Sanriku Coast is highly seismic and tidal waves are common due to the fact that the Pacific Plate and the Eurasia Plate meet on this coast. In fact, the second floor of our house was covered with tidal waves and collapsed when the Chilean earthquake occurred in 1960. We have been given tidal waves warnings twice in January and once in July so far this year. So to us the voice of concern calling out "if an earthquake occurs, the nuclear plants will be dangerous, we do not need N-plants", is loud and clear. This was especially true at my eldest daughter's school just the day after the Hanshin Quake. A friend of hers whose grand father is a very pro-nuclear rightist, said "Ai, please give my best regards to your father and grand father, for standing up to the nuclear power plants and trying to stop them." Compared with the self serving ideas of growing ups children are disarmingly honest when they give their opinion.

We would like to continue our struggle against nuclear power plants until the town people raise their voices in protest, until they are shut down and we can give the children their simple wish.

(Mikiko Abe)



## NEWS WATCH

### Spent Fuel Left Tomari Amid Protest

On Sept 19, 35 spent fuel assemblies discharged from the Tomari Nuclear Power Plants, Hokkaido, on board the British nuclear freighter Pacific Pintail left the plant's dedicated port for Sellafield. It was the first shipment of spent fuel from the plant and about 2000 people from citizen groups and trade unions gathered at the Iwanai ferry boat pier which is located on the other side of the port to protest against the shipment.

Unit 1 of the Tomari plant started commercial operation in June 1989, followed by unit 2 in April 1991. Both are 579 MW PWR owned and operated by Hokkaido Electric Power Company (HEPCO). The shipment of spent fuel can be regarded as a sort of demonstration by HEPCO rather than a impending necessity, since the spent fuel storage pool for each reactor is less than half full.

The protest against sending spent fuel has been a long and difficult for the anti-nuke movements, partly because of the problem of access to information on transportation schedule and partly because the public are generally not much interested in stopping the outflow of waste. But the first arrival of the high level waste which aroused much concern in Japan made many people feel that they should be concerned about the outflow as well. Although no protest could be organized at the other plant ports against the spent fuel carrier, the movement groups were successful in getting the information that the last port would be Tomari. The movement there is strong enough

to mobilize people for the protest. By coincidence, the freighter was the very Pacific Pintail which carried the high level waste from France to Japan this April.

The participants of the protest rally hailed messages of solidarity from CORE, Cumbrians Opposed to Radioactive Environment, who are actively campaigning against nuclear transportation into and out of Sellafield, as well as from Pacific Concerns Resource Center based in Fiji and a Panamanian environmental movement.

### KEPCO Replaces Vessel Heads of 3 PWRs

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry, on July 31, gave permission to Kansai Electric Power Co. to exchange reactor vessel heads of its Mihama 3 and Takahama 1 and 2 (all PWRs of 826 MW) as planned. On September 4 Fukui Prefecture consented to the plan for Mihama 3 and Takahama 1, but it postponed giving consent for Takahama 2.

The vessel head exchange for Mihama 3 and Takahama 1 is scheduled to be done along with the steam generator exchange, and an agreement has been made on the disposal method of the waste which will be produced by the replacement. With regard to Takahama 2 the steam generator exchange has already been done, and Kansai Electric has not presented a disposal method of the waste which will be produced by its vessel head replacement.

The utility told the prefecture, on September 8, that it would bury some of the shielding concrete blocks inside the premises, claiming that they were not "radioactive."

## PNC Plans Waste Laboratory at Tohnoh

Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation (PNC) on August 21st announced its plan to set up a research laboratory to study the deep geologic layers to ascertain the feasibility for high-level radioactive waste disposal, in Mizunami City, Gifu Prefecture. On August 21st PNC explained the plan before the city council, and it tried to conclude a construction agreement with Gifu Prefecture, Mizunami City and Toki City on the next day, but since the Gifu prefectural government took a cautious attitude, the agreement is yet to be concluded.

PNC has the Tohnoh Geoscience Center at the Tsukiyoshi uranium deposit which is located between Toki and Mizunami cities. The planned waste laboratory is expected to be built within the center, consisting of an underground facility several hundred to one thousand meters deep as well as an above-ground facility. The purpose of the 20-year project starting from fiscal 1995 to about the year 2014 is to survey the impact of drilling a deep shaft into the geologic layers to investigate rocks and underground water there.

Pledging that they will not store radioactive matter there, PNC is trying to get local residents' agreement, but at PNC's explanatory meetings local people expressed their fear that the laboratory might be turned into a radioactive waste dump in the future. They also voiced their belief that PNC has no qualms about lying for their own end.

Local people in the affected areas immediately organized the Tohnoh Network, an opposition movement, and have already demanded that the prefectural and city governments do not grant permission to PNC to build the laboratory.

Monju, the prototype fast breeder (280 MW), constructed in Tsuruga City, Fukui Prefecture, carried out its first generation and transmission of electricity, on August 29. The output was, however, a merely 5% of its rating, and the period of generation was one hour. Moreover, the operation was unorthodox as the electric power generation was done by bypassing the superheater of the steam generator, which consists of an evaporator and superheater.

The reason for this unusual measure being taken was that since the evaporator began operations in February this year, there have been problems on two occasions, and PNC was afraid that further trouble might occur if the superheater was used. The first generation-transmission was originally scheduled in April this year, but it was postponed until July, and then until August. If it was further postponed, PNC would not be able to pay the fixed property tax to the local government. It was, therefore, necessary for PNC to carry out the first generation-transmission before the end of August no matter whether the reactor was ready or not. The most recent plan is to begin a trial operation using the superheater in October with an output 40% of capacity, and achieve a full power operation in June next year. However, where Monju is concerned, nothing has gone as planned.

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 a subscription (subscription rate: supporting subscriber \$50/year or ¥5,000/year, subscriber \$30/year or ¥3,000/year). The subscription fee should be remitted from a post office to our post office account No:00160-0-185799, HANGENPATU-NEWS by postal money order. We would also appreciate receiving information and newsletters from groups abroad in exchange for this newsletter. (In the case of sending the subscription fee from abroad, please send them by international postal money order.)