

June 1, 2023

To: Board of Directors, IPPNW

Physicians Against Nuclear War (PANW)

Dear directors,

We would like to extend our congratulations to the success of the 23rd World Congress in Mombasa, Kenya. We, Japanese Physicians Against Nuclear War (PANW), had also sent six delegates to participate the congress. Among them, two were young medical students.

We would like to express that PANW agree with the statement “The Pacific Ocean must not be a radioactive waste dump” announced by IPPNW board of directors.

In April 2021, PANW published a statement “We demand the Japanese Government not to release the tritium-contaminated water to ocean” when the Japanese Government made the decision to release the tritium-contaminated water into the Ocean. They presented several options before reaching to this decision of releasing the water into ocean. However, as no option had been presented for retaining the water in tanks as was, it was only natural to make the decision based on a conclusion.

At Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant, the contaminated water has already accumulated to 1.25 million tons stored in over 1000 tanks, and continues to increase at the pace of 140 tons per day. The total amount of tritium contained in those tanks come to 780 trillion becquerels, and together with the ones kept inside the buildings, the estimated total adds up to as many as 2000 becquerels. Even though the priority issue should be how to reduce the amount of contaminated water, neither Japanese Government nor TEPCO has proposed action plan against increasing contaminated water except for the current scheme. According to the Japanese Government and TEPCO, their plan is to release the water into the ocean maintaining the annual tritium level to be lower than 22 trillion becquerels for a certain period of time, and then, gradually increase if the situation allows, and this is expected to take at least several decades.

There is enough space around the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant. PANW is demanding that ocean dump be stopped, measures to reduce contaminated water be strengthened, and the tritium contaminated water be stored in tanks for the time being.

PANW is committed to continue our movement to stop the ocean release of tritium contaminated water.