

Petition

We, **Children First**, are a group of people in Fukushima, Japan, where the most serious nuclear disaster ever to occur happened after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that heavily damaged the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (NPP). 40 days after the disaster, the Japanese government changed the evacuation policy. Now, towns/villages or settlements, which are estimated to have more than 20mSv of radiation per year, are selected individually for planned evacuation. However, we believe 20mSv/year is much too high for children and for women who will give birth in the future. Our mission is to demand that the national and prefectural governments reexamine the 20mSv/year criteria for determining evacuation eligibility.

Is 20mSv/year really safe?

At the Chernobyl disaster, forced evacuation was enforced in areas with 5mSv/year or more. Even at that low level, there are still many people suffering from cancers, lymphocytic leukemia, and congenital disorders.

The Radiation Effects Research Foundation, under the Ministry of Education's commission, studied the effect of low radiation doses over a period of 10 years. They concluded that though they were unable to prove a causal relationship, a significant difference in health condition was found between people who had a low radiation dose over a long period of time and people who only received environmental radiation.

Is Dr Yamashita's advice valid?

Dr Shunichi Yamashita, a professor at the Graduate School of International Health Development, Nagasaki University, who has been assigned as a radiation health advisor to Fukushima Prefecture, was invited many times by prefectural and local governments to speak to the local people. There, he has repeatedly stated that there is no health risk up to a 100mSv dose of radiation. He also states that as only one DNA per second will be damaged from exposure to 1mSv, there is no risk. He then continues that there is no point wearing a surgical mask. However, Dr Yamashita himself has made contradictory statements that the health risk will start at as low as 10mSv and children are especially vulnerable.

Health monitoring survey: does it guarantee the health of the Fukushima people?

Fukushima Prefecture has announced that it is going to carry out a health monitoring survey for all the people living in the prefecture. However, for most of the people the survey is limited only to a questionnaire, and no further plans have been presented yet. We demand that further examinations including a blood and urine test, a hair test, a whole body counter examination and echo examination of thyroid be carried out on all residents of Fukushima Prefecture to assure that the health of our children and grandchildren will be protected.

Please help us by signing petition attached.

Children first