

# Fukushima has an Ongoing Melt-Out

By Taki Yuriko

Translated by John Saxon

On March 11, 2011,  
Pandora's Box was opened.

Two years and five months have passed.  
TEPCO reports,  
"1000 tons of groundwater  
Flow daily into the reactor structure.  
Half the contaminated water is  
Pumped into land tanks, but  
Half leaks out to sea,"  
Nonchalantly, as if it were  
Someone else's problem.

In short,  
Melted nuclear fuel has accumulated  
In the reactor bottom –  
Meltdown.  
But now it has breached the reactor bottom,  
Leaking out of the containment vessel –  
Melt-through.  
Containment vessels have at least two openings,  
An entrance for ground water and  
An exit for contaminated water.  
Nuclear fuel mixing  
With the ground water and  
Leaking into the sea –  
Melt-out!  
Is this not  
The worst possible outcome?

But they deliberately hide the danger,  
Removing key terms from their reports.  
With the kind of disaster

Never seen in human history and  
Imagined only in movies,  
Why is there no clear admission?

The Japanese government says  
it can retire these plants within forty years.  
But only if robots can be developed in ten years  
To replace the human workers  
And determine where the problem is  
Inside the highly radioactive reactor.

“Where the problem is?!”  
It’s the “hole” through which the  
Melted nuclear fuel is leaking!  
Why don’t they SAY THAT?!

I’m done listening.  
Forget about our government’s losing face.  
SOS the world’s scientists and engineers!

Every day 3000-plus temporary workers must  
Dash headlong into  
The ultra-radioactive core,  
Then rush back out  
Within five minutes.  
Once they reach 100 msv,  
They’re fired and replaced.

Without the reactor housing roof,  
Fallout enters the atmosphere directly.  
But this has long been the case;  
It no longer makes the news.

After two years, labor is short.  
Now twenty-something youths are hired,  
Despite their known sensitivity to  
Radiation's effects.

So many are put to use,  
Exposed to radiation  
Day after day  
Only as temporary, stopgap measures,  
To prevent another explosion.

And now the Japanese government has announced  
“New Safety Standards for Restarting Nuclear Reactors?”  
Restarting?!  
I'm astounded!

Notes:

- 1) Surface radiation of the water that has been leaking out into the sea has been measured at 830 milli-Sieverts/hour. At that rate, a lethal dose for most people is ten hours.
  - 2) It was reported that, on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 300 tons of highly radioactive contaminated water were leaking out of one of the 1000 land-based tanks. This development alone earned a level 3 accident declaration from the IAEA (3/11 was level 7). Regrettably, soon after, several other tanks were also found to be leaking contaminated water.
- From an editorial column in the 2013/08/22 edition of the Tokyo Shinbun newspaper:  
“After the massive accident at Fukushima, we are now in a situation in which  
massive accidents occur daily.”

✂ TEPCO : Tokyo Electric Power Company