

Mobilisations and Local Resistances

# Japan-Tohoku: Three Months After, more than 70,000 people participated in the June-11 actions

Sunday 12 June 2011, by [ALABASTER Jay](#), [Kakehashi](#), [Kyodo News](#), [MAEDA Risa](#), [Nikkei](#), [Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Date first published: 12 June 2011).

**These are initial information on the Japanese June 11 mobilisations and the impact of popular resistances on the nuclear policy.**

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## **70,000 people participated in the June-11 actions for decommissioning of nuke plants all over Japan**

Tokyo, June 12 (Kakehashi)—In response to the call for the nationwide no-nuke actions, there were rallies, indoor meetings and demonstrations at more than 140 places all over Japan on June 11, and 70,000 men and women, young and old, children and babies participated in the nationwide actions, demanding decommissioning of the nuclear power plants.

The following is the initial, inconclusive information on the number of participants:

Sapporo (Hokkaido) 500  
Sendai (Miyagi Pref.) 400  
Kouriyama (Fukushima Pref.) 200  
Tsukuba (Ibaragi Pref.) 500  
Tokyo—Shinjuku Central Park 20,000  
Tokyo—Shiba Park 6,000  
Tokyo—Yoyogi Park 1,500  
Yokohama (Kanagawa Pref.) 3,000  
Shizuoka (Shizuoka Pref.) 300  
Hamamatsu (Shizuoka Pref.) 200  
Nagoya (Aichi Pref.) 800  
Gifu (Gifu Pref.) 500  
Toyama (Toyama Pref.) 100  
Fukui (Fukui Pref.) 150

Kyoto (Kyoto Pref.) 600  
Osaka (Osaka Pref) 4,000  
Kobe (Hyougo Pref.) 500  
Hiroshima 300  
Matsuyama (Ehime Pref.) 200  
Fukuoka (Fukuoka Pref) 1,000

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### **Three months marked since killer quake, tsunami Anniversary of twin disasters observed with prayers, protests**

Events to commemorate the three-month anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the deadly tsunami it spawned were held Saturday throughout the Tohoku region, where about 15,400 people have been confirmed dead and more than 8,000 remain missing.

In Tokyo, the focus of the three-month anniversary was on whether the country should continue to pursue nuclear energy, with protesters organizing demonstrations.

On Saturday, crowds gathered in a muddy field at a park next to the iconic Tokyo Tower, shouting antinuclear slogans and carrying colorful banners with phrases such as "Immediately stop all use of nuclear power and shut down the plants."

The demonstrators poured out onto the streets of the capital in orderly rows, banging drums and shouting antinuclear slogans as they walked toward the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry and the head offices of Tokyo Electric Power Co., which operates the Fukushima plant. Police said about 2,000 people took part in the protest.

"Since the earthquake, I've realized that nuclear power is just too dangerous to use," said Takeshi Terada, 32, a local shipping industry worker who came with 10 friends to take part in the protest.

While many in the Tokyo protests were members of large organizations that traditionally support such issues as antiwar legislation and women's rights, some arrived in small groups with their families. Children and even dogs walked in clothing decorated with antinuclear slogans.

"I'm worried about the children. It's not just in Fukushima, there are radiation problems even here in Tokyo," said Mika Obuchi, 45, who marched with her husband and 9-year-old daughter.

Protests were held in other parts of the capital as well.

**Kyodo**, AP, June 12, 2011

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20110612a1.html>

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## **Anti-nuke protests in Japan, 3 months after quake**

TOKYO — Protesters held mass demonstrations against nuclear power across Japan on Saturday, the three-month anniversary of the powerful earthquake and tsunami that killed over 23,000 and triggered one of the world's worst nuclear disasters.

Streets in parts of Tokyo were completely jammed with thousands of chanting protesters, paralyzing sections of the city. Some marchers called for the country's nuclear plants to be shut down immediately and for stricter radiation tests by the government.

In Tokyo, protesters carried colorful banners and banged drums as they walked in orderly rows past the Economy Ministry and the head offices of Tokyo Electric Power Co., which operates the Fukushima plant. Entire families marched, their toddlers and even dogs wearing clothing with anti-nuclear slogans.

"I'm worried about the children. It's not just in Fukushima, there are radiation problems even here in Tokyo," said Mika Obuchi, 45, who marched with her husband and 9-year-old daughter.

**By JAY ALABASTER**, Associated Press, Jun 11, 2011

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110611/ap\\_on\\_bi\\_ge/as\\_japan\\_earthquake\\_15](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110611/ap_on_bi_ge/as_japan_earthquake_15)

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## **Novelist Murakami slams nuclear policy**

BARCELONA, Spain - Novelist Haruki Murakami criticized his country's pursuit of nuclear energy Thursday during his acceptance speech at the 2011 International Catalunya Prize ceremony in Barcelona, describing the ongoing crisis at the quake-crippled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant as "a mistake committed by our very own hands."

Murakami said Japan, as the only nation to have experienced the devastation and suffering from radiation through World War II atomic bombings, should have continued saying "no" to nuclear power.

Murakami, the first Japanese to receive the prize given annually by the autonomous Catalan government, said the EUR80,000 (approximately \$9.3 million) prize money would be donated to the victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami as well as those affected by the nuclear crisis.

"The accident at the Fukushima (No. 1) nuclear power plant is the second major nuclear detriment that the Japanese people have experienced," he said in Japanese. "However, this time it was not a bomb being dropped upon us, but a mistake committed by our very own hands." "The Japanese people, having learned through the sacrifice of the hibakusha just how badly radiation leaves scars on the world and human wellbeing," should have continued to stand firm in rejecting nuclear

power, the novelist, clad in a gray blazer, said.

"Yet those who questioned (the safety of) nuclear power were marginalized as being 'unrealistic dreamers,' " while the Japanese government and utility companies put priority on "efficiency" and "convenience" and turned the quake-prone nation into the world's third-largest nuclear-powered country, he added.

Japan should have pursued on a national level the development of effective energy sources to replace nuclear power. Doing so could have been a way of taking collective responsibility for the atomic bomb victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he said.

On a more upbeat note, Murakami said he was confident Japan would rise again to rebuild after realigning its mind and spirit, just as it has survived on many occasions throughout its history.

**Kyodo**, June 11, 2011

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20110611a2.html>

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### **More Tepco Shareholders Seeking Nuclear Phaseout**

TOKYO (Nikkei)—A total of 402 shareholders at Tokyo Electric Power Co. (9501) have jointly submitted a resolution urging a withdrawal from nuclear power operations, the utility revealed in a notice for its general shareholders.

The company, also known as Tepco, has received such shareholder proposals in the past. But the number of those signing on to the latest resolution is up from last year's 273.

The board plans to oppose the proposal, and instead will weigh its options based on discussions about energy policy and the findings from a probe into the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant. The utility's shareholders' meeting is scheduled for June 28

Tepco incurred a 1.24 trillion yen group net loss in fiscal 2010 on the enormous cleanup costs at the Fukushima Daiichi facility.

The utility also said it paid a total of 723 million yen in compensation to 24 directors for the year ended March 31. In the previous year, it disbursed 721 million yen to 21 directors.

**Nikkei**, June 11, 2011

<http://e.nikkei.com/e/fr/tnks/Nni20110610D10JFN01.htm>

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## **Reactor makers look to green energy amid nuclear allergy**

In the three months since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami damaged the Fukushima No. 1 atomic plant, the nation's three reactor makers have started to focus more on renewable energy sources, particularly solar, wind and geothermal power.

Toshiba Corp., Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and Hitachi Ltd. say they now have higher sales goals in the alternative energy fields, including pursuit of "energy-smart communities" that can save power consumption as a whole city or village by using energy control systems.

Analysts said the three reactor makers have little choice but to expand their natural energy-related pursuits because of the ever-strengthening aversion both at home and abroad to nuclear power, even though whether the government will act quickly to support such business remains a question.

Various figures point to strong demand for renewable energy in the future, the analysts said.

"No one would be against the country introducing a vast amount of renewable energy," said Hitoshi Ikuma, director of the center for emergence strategy at Japan Research Institute Ltd. "The focus is when it will be introduced."

Ikuma's comments are based on forecasts that the country's nuclear power capacity will decline sharply over the next few decades. Overall capacity in 2030 is expected to be half the roughly 46,000 kw of 2010 because a reactor has a life of about 40 years.

It will also be hard to construct new reactors for the next 20 to 30 years, during which time the crippled Fukushima plant is expected to still be undergoing decommissioning, he said.

Currently, about 30 percent of the country's overall electricity is generated by reactors, compared with only about 3 percent from renewable energy.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan said last month the government will rethink its long-term strategy, which had called for raising the level of nuclear power to account for 50 percent of the nation's overall electricity in the future. He also pledged to boost Japan's use of green energy to 20 percent of total power supply by 2020.

The demand surge has led companies to view renewable energy with optimism.

Hitachi released on Thursday a higher sales target for renewables Å\ 280

billion for fiscal 2015 from ¥170 billion for fiscal 2010 and a lower target for nuclear power ¥170 billion, down from ¥180 billion.

Toshiba, Japan's biggest reactor maker, is more bullish.

On May 24, Toshiba raised its sales goal for renewable energy, including solar, wind, water and geothermal, to ¥350 billion by fiscal 2015, reportedly six-fold the figure logged for fiscal 2010. The company said it set a goal of ¥900 billion in sales for energy-smart community projects by the same fiscal year, or three times greater than current sales.

A smart community would include such infrastructure as a smart-grid and smart-meters that can help households save electricity by exchanging data with power firms.

Toshiba has meanwhile agreed to buy Switzerland's Landis+Gyr AG, the world's No. 1 smart-meter maker, which operates in more than 30 countries, for \$2.3 billion. It will provide the crucial meter for the smart communities that can effectively control generation and consumption of electricity.

"Some countries and companies may want to shift to renewable energy after the (Fukushima) accident. For these customers, we are saying we can also provide renewable energy," Toshiba President Norio Sasaki told reporters on May 24.

In the same news conference, the company said it is possible to delay its plan to achieve ¥1 trillion in sales by building 39 new reactors by the business year to March 2016.

"Hitachi and Toshiba are competitive because they can provide thorough services for energy-smart communities," said Tomohisa Nonomura, an analyst at Toyo Securities Co.

Mitsubishi Heavy said earlier this month it hopes to reap ¥3 trillion in sales in its green energy business by fiscal 2014, which is 1.7 times as much as the average sales between 2007 and 2009. MHI, which is already one of the world's biggest wind power generator makers, will also focus on water and geothermal generators.

Other electronics makers are also moving toward green energy.

Panasonic Corp., for example, promised in its three-year business plan announced last year to shift its focus to renewable energy.

President Fumio Otsubo said the firm is targeting ¥100 billion in green energy-related business for the next business year to March 2013 and ¥300 billion or more in the business year to March 2016. This goal includes solar panels, fuel cells as well as rechargeable lithium-ion batteries that can store electricity.

Despite the urgent demand for alternative energy, there are hurdles for the nation's green power market to grow.

Analysts said what is important is a legal framework to help introduce a large amount of renewable energy, deregulation to reduce costs to install and operate generators and other equipment, and above all, political initiative to back up the trend for green energy.

"What is most important is political power (to drive the trend)," said Hisashi Matsumoto, an investment analyst at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities Co.

To boost demand for such alternative energy, analysts said lawmakers need to pass a bill on feed-in tariffs that require power firms to buy all renewable power-generated electricity in Japan. The bill was submitted to the Diet in March, but its chances of clearing the Diet remain unclear amid the power struggle within the ruling Democratic Party of Japan.

Japan Research's Ikuma also noted that Japanese companies are currently behind Chinese and other overseas firms in the wind and solar power markets.

"Japanese firms should not just sell equipment alone because that would just involve them in price wars. What they will really have to do is sell the system as a whole," he said, referring to projects like energy-smart communities.

By **HIROKO NAKATA**, *Japan Times* Staff writer, June 11, 2011  
<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nb20110611a2.html>

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## **Japan may have no nuclear reactors running by next April**

(Reuters) - All 54 of Japan's nuclear reactors may be shut by next April, adding more than \$30 billion a year to the country's energy costs, if communities object to plant operating plans due to safety concerns, trade ministry officials said on Wednesday.

Since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, which triggered a radiation crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi plant north of Tokyo, concern among local authorities has kept nuclear generators from restarting at least four reactors that had been expected to come online after routine maintenance and inspection.

Several more reactors have since shut for regular maintenance, slashing Japan's nuclear generating capacity to just 7,580 megawatts, or only 36 percent of its registered nuclear capacity.

In May, Japan's average nuclear run rate fell to 40.9 percent, the lowest in at least a decade and well below 62.1 percent a year earlier.

Before the quake and tsunami, which forced the closure of three other power plants in addition to Tokyo Electric Power Co's Fukushima Daiichi facility, nuclear power supplied about 30 percent of Japan's electricity.

Although a reactor is legally cleared for restart once it receives approval from the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA), a trade ministry watchdog, nuclear operators always seek local government approvals as well, in recognition of the importance of support from the community around the plant.

If no reactors that shut for regular maintenance after the disaster are restarted, it would cost an extra 2.4 trillion yen (\$30 billion) to make up lost power generation during the financial year to next March, a trade ministry estimate showed.

If all of Japan's reactors end up offline without any restarts, the extra cost would escalate to 3 trillion yen a year, reflecting the need to buy more fossil fuels from abroad while the use of renewable energy remains limited.

Among the 19 Japanese reactors that remain online, the last due to be shut for inspections — on April 9, 2012 — is the 1,356 megawatt No.6 reactor at Tokyo Electric's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant in northwestern Japan, a NISA official said. The reactor came out of its last maintenance period just two days before the March 11 disaster.

In Japan, nuclear generators currently must shut for inspection at least once every 13 months.

The maintenance period can vary widely, from a few months to more than a year, and the restart typically begins with a one- to two-month test run before advancing to commercial operation, which will require regulatory approval. (\$1 = 80.075 Japanese Yen)

**By Risa Maeda**

(Reporting by Risa Maeda; Editing by Edmund Klamann)

TOKYO | Wed Jun 8, 2011 8:58am EDT

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/06/08/us-japan-nuclear-reactors-idUSTRE7572P920110608>

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## **TEPCO to seek 15% electricity cut / Prospects dim of restarting some reactors**

Kansai Electric Power Co. announced Friday that it will ask all its users to cut their electricity consumption by 15 percent between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. on weekdays from July 1 through Sept. 22, as it is unlikely that it will be able to resume operations at nuclear power reactors that are currently shut down for regular inspections, or are scheduled to be.

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake, many companies have been moving their production sites to western Japan from the service area of Tokyo Electric Power Co., where an electricity shortage is expected this summer.

However, Kansai Electric's announcement will likely force them to revise their plans, observers said.

Regular inspections have already finished at three of Kansai Electric's 11 nuclear reactors. These three reactors can resume operations if the

company can obtain the understanding of local residents.

However, the government of Fukui Prefecture, where the reactors are located, has expressed reservations because it believes the plants' countermeasures against earthquakes and tsunami are not sufficient.

This means the utility might not be able to operate a total of six nuclear power reactors by August.

Kansai Electric's power supply will drop to 29.38 million kilowatts if operations at those nuclear reactors are not resumed. This means a potential shortfall of 2 million kilowatts if the weather becomes as hot as last summer and many people turn on their air conditioners.

Meanwhile, the government is to order large-lot users in the service areas of TEPCO and Tohoku Electric Power Co. to limit their electricity consumption between July and September to 15 percent below last summer's peak. This plan has prompted many companies to move their data centers and production sites, which consume a great deal of power, to the Kansai region.

Toshiba Corp. is planning to move part of its semiconductor production from a factory in Iwate Prefecture, which was damaged by the March 11 disaster, to a semiconductor plant in Himeji, Hyogo Prefecture. Fujitsu Ltd. is planning to move its large computers in Kawasaki and other places to locations including Akashi, Hyogo Prefecture.

"We've just implemented measures [to move corporate facilities to the Kansai region], in response to the electricity shortfall expected in TEPCO's service area," an official at a major electric-appliance manufacturer said. "This is so sudden, we don't know what to do yet. We'll study the situation."

An official of Resona Bank said the company expected such a request in Osaka Prefecture and has already looked into power-saving measures.

"If Kansai Electric makes the request, we'll save power by implementing the same restrictions on the use of air-conditioning and lighting at our offices in the Tokyo metropolitan area and in the Kansai region," he said.

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### **Kan may need to woo locals**

Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Banri Kaieda said at a press conference after the Cabinet meeting Friday that Prime Minister Naoto Kan himself may have to persuade local governments to agree to the resumption of operations at nuclear reactors currently suspended for regular inspections or set to be suspended.

Kaieda expressed concern over Kansai Electric's request for all its users to cut electricity use by 15 percent this summer, as supply is likely to be insufficient due to delays in the resumption of operations

at its nuclear power reactors.

"A business downturn in western Japan as the result of an electricity shortfall would seriously harm disaster reconstruction and the nation's whole economy," Kaieda said.

He was cautious about ordering restrictions on power consumption for large-lot users based on the Electricity Business Law.

Kaieda revealed that TEPCO was scheduled to start making provisional compensation payments Friday to small and midsize companies within the planned evacuation area that have been affected by the crisis at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant.

TEPCO has already made provisional compensation payments to evacuated households, farmers and fishermen.

***The Yomiuri Shimbun*** , June 11, 2011

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T110610005996.htm>

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