



## Advocacy for Energy Crisis concerning Reactivation of Oi Nuclear Power Plant

### **\* Realizing “A Peaceful World” Free from Nuclear Fear**

The YMCA operates in 125 countries and aims to work with people world-wide to realize peace.

Although the use of nuclear power to generate electricity began with the idea of “Atoms for Peace”, it became clear after the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station that Japan was overly-confident in our ability to safely utilize nuclear technology; and that the economic development of the country became the main priority. As Japan was the only country to have been affected by atomic bombs, and with the YMCAs of Japan recognizing a deep responsibility for our historical errors to the people of the Asia-Pacific regions, we strive for the total abolition of nuclear weapons and also wish for society to be free from reliance on nuclear power.

### **\* Encountering Children from Fukushima**

We have come to understand how terribly difficult it is for people to recover from the tragedy of nuclear radiation. After the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accident, YMCAs throughout Japan had opportunities to encounter more than 2,500 children mainly from Fukushima through Friendship Camps.

With these children being unable to play freely outside or to enjoy being in the natural world as they normally would in childhood, we could strongly sense their severe stress and the deep anxiety being experienced by their parents. YMCAs in Japan are taking responsibility by remaining responsive and engaged with these children as much as possible through these Friendship Camps as well as other programs and services. We cannot allow for a policy that threatens the lives or growth of these children, nor isolates or discriminates the people of Fukushima.

### **\* Educating People for Rehabilitation Efforts of Sustainable Communities and Preservation of Life**

Japan YMCAs are committed to promoting the formation of a new society for children through the “East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Work”. In order to realize a sustainable society and the preservation of life, each individual must first question their own life-style and we must act, learn, and pray together to use eco-friendly reusable energy resources. To achieve this goal, Japan YMCAs are firstly making platforms for youth to come together to discuss and act in positive ways.

We think that youth who will carry the burdens of society have yet to be engaged in the issues that need to be examined and discussed. They must be included in the discourse and decision-making.

We declare our deep regret to the reactivation of Oi Nuclear Power Plant, and we demand that other nuclear power plants in Japan not be reactivated.