



March 20, 2011

A Message from WiN-Japan  
On the Nuclear Disaster from the Japan Tohoku Earthquake

Junko Ogawa, WiN-Japan President

On March 11, 2011, the largest earthquake since the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with a magnitude of 9.0 occurred in the Pacific coast of the Tohoku region. We express our deepest condolences for the victims that have lost their lives and homes from the earthquake and the subsequent tsunami.

The Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant experienced severe damage during this catastrophe. Although the operating reactor has successfully shutdown as designed, the emergency power source was lost from the immediate large scale tsunami, and subsequently the reactor and spent fuel pit cooling functions were lost. Work was performed to release pressure in the containment vessel in order to decrease the core pressure, which resulted in releasing radioactive materials from the vent stack and many members of the public and related personnel exposed to radiation. The Prime Minister of Japan has announced a state of emergency and currently more than 20,000 inhabitants have evacuated the area or ordered to stay indoors. The evacuees, the people of the Tohoku region, and the Japanese nation are waiting anxiously for the turn of events.

Although the people are working hard in recovering the spent fuel pit and power source, exactly when they can be recovered is still unknown.

WiN-Japan members, along with Tokyo Electric, Tohoku Electric, Japan Atomic Power, and Japan Nuclear Fuel Limited are working tirelessly at the site. In addition, WiN-Japan members in their respective regions are also fulfilling their duties while facing the unease of the public.

WiN-Japan believes that it is our mission to provide advice and understandable information to the public based on information released by related organizations and the media. When the situation in Fukushima becomes clear, we intend to analyze insights and Lessons Learned from this event, and continue our activities in promoting peaceful use of nuclear power in Japan and especially proactively reach to the public.

We are prepared that the Japanese public will be tougher on nuclear as an energy source and that the trust we have accumulated over the years may be rocky. We at WiN-Japan take pride in our work in the nuclear industry; we have experienced and overcome many obstacles. Now, we need to renew our vows to take the situation and think with the public on how nuclear energy should exist in the future.

Lastly, we want to again express our deepest regret to the evacuees and our respect to the dedicated workers who are risking their lives for the recovery work. With our readers, we would like to pray for a fast recovery.



For the latest official press releases, please refer to the following websites:

Tokyo Electric Homepage

<http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/index-e.html>

Tohoku Electric Homepage

<http://www.tohoku-epco.co.jp/index-e.htm>

Japan Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency

<http://www.nisa.meti.go.jp/english/index.html>

Atomic Energy Society of Japan

<http://www.aesj.or.jp/index-e.html>