

# **Don't Sign the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC)**

To Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

The Japanese government has decided the proposal and related bills on the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) in today's Cabinet meeting. At the event of a nuclear accident, the convention obligates only nuclear operators at the site to compensate for damage caused by the accident, exempting nuclear suppliers from any liabilities. It is obvious that you and the government intend to facilitate the export of nuclear power plants by signing the CSC.

Exporting a nuclear power plant may cause serious human sufferings and environmental devastation due to radioactive materials in and around a destination country. As the causes of the Fukushima nuclear disaster have yet to be made clear, you should not promote nuclear sales to other countries.

We, the Support Action Center for Kotopanjang Dam Victims, which has long questioned the validity of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), oppose any nuclear related export supported by the ODA and other public funds, and strongly demand that you and the government abandon the plan to sign the CSC.

In particular, India, one of the largest nuclear power markets in the world, has the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, which requires not only nuclear operators but also suppliers to assume the risk of being forced to compensate at the event of a nuclear accident. Your plan to sign the CSC, which indemnifies nuclear suppliers for any accidents, is intended primarily to undermine this legal framework in India, and totally unacceptable to us.

Besides the indemnification of nuclear suppliers from liabilities at the event of an accident, many problems regarding the CSC have been pointed out from the viewpoint of protecting people who suffered from a nuclear accident, including (1) Nuclear damage is narrowly defined to minimize compensation coverage, (2) The country where a nuclear accident occurred need to provide only about 46.8 billion yen and a total amount of contributions from other contracting states is roughly estimated at a few tens of billions of yen at best, leaving no possibility that all possible damage will be covered, (3) The responsibility for compensation will last for only ten years after a nuclear accident, ignoring the risk of delayed effects of radiation exposure, (4) A damage suit can only be filed in the country where a nuclear accident occurred.

The CSC is obviously designed to minimize liabilities and compensation risks on the part of nuclear operators and suppliers, and once it takes effect, it will be much more unlikely that nuclear operators and suppliers take on the cost of implementing responsible measures to prevent nuclear accidents.

In India, Turkey, and other potential destinations for export by Japan-based nuclear suppliers, many people are concerned about the risk of a nuclear disaster and stand up in thousands against proposed import and construction of nuclear power plants. Also in Japan, many people including the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) and a leading environmental organization have raised voices against the government's intention to sign the CSC and prop up nuclear export. Given these widespread critical voices rising at home and abroad, you should back off from joining the CSC and promoting the export of nuclear power plants.

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Support Action Center for Kotopanjang Dam Victims