

# **International Joint Statement:**

- Stop Japan's "ODA for national interests"*
- Block ODA-driven nuclear plants & arms export*
- Build international network of ODA victims*

July 29, 2012

Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) has brought serious damage on people around the world including Asia under the name of "aid."

In cooperation with military dictatorship and authoritarian regimes, such as the Suharto (Indonesia) and Marcos (the Philippines) administrations, the Japanese government has promoted dam constructions, port improvement projects, and other ODA-funded public works to benefit Japanese companies. As a result, the environment has been polluted and destructed; Local residents have forcibly been displaced from their homelands and suffered social and economic exclusion; People in recipient countries have been left heavily debt-laden.

Nevertheless, with no reflection on the serious consequences, the Japanese government is further promoting the "ODA for national interests" to help a handful of Japan-based global companies expand their business all over the world. They intend to utilize the ODA to shore up the growth of Japanese businesses in today's intensely competitive global market. Under the name of "peace building," the government is combining the ODA with the overseas dispatch of unconstitutional Self-Defense Forces and spoiling aid NGOs of any size with government subsidies to organize Japanese "full-cast" ODA promotion. Casting aside even the public stance of "aid donor," they are promoting outright economic aggression that commits the ODA money to global companies' profit-making, as described in the government's ODA Review Final Report released on June 29, 2010.

Japan's ODA White Paper 2011 issued on May 9, 2012, also declares that the government will utilize the aid to developing countries to boost Japan's strong economic growth that can support the nation's revival and reconstruction from the March 11 disaster. In line with this policy, the Japanese government is engaging in a new wave of profit-oriented ODA offensive. They are promoting the "packaged export of infrastructure" including the export of nuclear power plants to Vietnam or other countries, and even embarking on an ODA-funded arms export by providing patrol boats to the Philippines.

However, faced with internationally growing anti-nuclear power movements, this scheme is already fraying around the edges. On June 28, Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), the operator of the Fukushima nuclear power plants, announced its withdrawal from the International Nuclear Energy Development of Japan (JINED) because of a heavy burden as a result of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Founded in 2010, the JINED is a national policy corporation that promotes the export of nuclear power plants and is staffed mainly by TEPCO, the largest shareholder of the company. TEPCO's withdrawal indicates that the Japanese framework of nuclear power plants export is unraveling.

Struggle against the export of nuclear power plants constitutes a core task of anti-ODA movements, which oppose economic aggression by Japan-based global companies. While the existing legal structure prevents them from using the ODA directly for the construction of nuclear power plants, the government is covertly utilizing the ODA for that purpose under a sophisticated disguise. As an example, they are using the ODA to train nuclear engineers in developing countries under the name of "technical assistance" through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Nuclear engineers from Japanese power corporations have been sent as "JICA experts" to target countries while a large number of trainees have been invited to Japan to receive education at Japanese nuclear manufacturers every year. We must force them to stop this "technical assistance" immediately.

We also have to put emphasis on solidarity with those who have been damaged by the existing ODA projects. In the Kotopanjang Dam lawsuit currently on trial at the Tokyo High Court, people in Indonesia's West Sumatra, as ODA victims in a recipient country, are suing the Japanese government and aid agencies for the first time in history. Through the lawsuit, Kotopanjang people revealed some important parts of Japan's ODA funding mechanism that had been covered up as "diplomatic secrets," and made public the dam construction's severe impacts on the Kotopanjang region in social, economic, cultural, and environmental terms. They are accusing the Japanese government, the JICA, and a consulting firm of responsibility for providing funds for the destructive dam project.

In the Philippines, people have suffered from the Batangas ODA project. There have been a series of protests against the displacement forced by the national and local governments using armed forces, thugs, and paramilitary groups. The judiciary decided that "the demolition of Santa Clara was illegal." Declaring that they are not squatters, people in Santa Clara are determined to fight to get back their land.

These powerful protests are confronting Japan's "ODA for national interests."

Based on these people's struggles and achievements, hand in hand with movements around the world, we will seek for the termination of destructive ODA through the following activities:

1. Stop the ODA-driven export of nuclear power plants and weapons in cooperation with growing worldwide anti-nuclear power movements.
2. Oppose the destruction of people's lives and the environment by Japan's ODA; Support ODA victims around the world.
3. Take internationally coordinated actions for the 3rd hearing on September 14 and subsequent appeal court's judgment on the Kotopanjang Dam lawsuit.
4. Build an international network of ODA victims to launch joint investigation on legal affairs concerning ODA-caused damage and on debt burdens imposed by the ODA.