

## **International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011 for Tsunehisa Katsumata, Masataka Shimizu, Toshio Nishizawa, other responsible executives and the major shareholders of the energy company TEPCO / Japan**



## Cover Photo

The photo shows Tsunehisa Katsumata (chairman, on the right hand side), Masataka Shimizu (former president, in the middle) and Sakae Muto (vicepresident, on the left hand side) during an emergency meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in the crisis management centre in TEPCO's company headquarters in Tokyo during the acute stage of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in Japan.



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With adequate profit, capital is very bold.  
A certain 10 percent will ensure its employment anywhere;  
20 percent certain will produce eagerness;  
50 percent, positive audacity;  
100 percent will make it ready to trample on all human laws;  
300 percent, and there is not a crime  
at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run,  
even to the chance of its owner being hanged.

Thomas J. Dunning  
Economist and trade unionist (1799 - 1873)  
published in the Quarterly Review  
London 1860





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**Axel Köhler-Schnura<sup>1</sup>**

**The International ethecon Blue Planet Project<sup>2</sup>  
and the two International ethecon Awards<sup>3</sup>**

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

Since 2006 ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics has bestowed two international awards annually. Today we are here to present the awards for 2010.

What are these awards? What are the ethecon awards all about?

In order to answer these questions, I must expand a bit.

My fellow founders of ethecon, the sustaining members, donors and of course myself, along with Mrs. Rehmann, both of us founding sponsors of ethecon, established the foundation in 2004. As individuals who are not willing to sit back and watch fundamental ethical principles be trampled upon, who resolutely take a stand against the fact that profit is increasingly the sole motivating force in our society and in managing the environment - for the sole purpose of making the rich richer, to the detriment of mankind and society with the risk of complete human, social and ecological ruin. We are looking at the social and ecological destruction of the planet caused by the disintegration of fundamental ethical principles on the part of those responsible for the economy.

The idea to encourage efforts to save and preserve ethical principles and respectively to pillory those who have contempt for the same, matured in our founding year 2004. There are and have been many awards honouring "achievements" in various areas of society, but far too few prizes acknowledging resistance against the abuse and ruin of ethics and morals, and the subsequent environmental destruction, war and exploitation.

Our idea coincided with the art cycle "Blue Planet" created by the artist Otto Piene. Otto Piene – born in 1928 – is one of the major artists of the 20th century. Art connoisseurs well know that together with

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<sup>1</sup> Axel Köhler-Schnura, Dipl.Kfm., Düsseldorf/Germany, born in 1949, married, four children (one deceased); studied business administration, sociology, computer science, various languages: Until 1976 economic sociology research within the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft/DFG (German Research Institute). After that various positions in private industry, the last position in the executive management of a polygraphical company. Since 1988 owner of companies in the field of ecology. Substantially involved in the founding of organizations as Dachverband der Kritischen AktionärInnen (Association of the Critical Shareholders), Pestizid Aktionsnetzwerk (Pesticide Action Network Germany/PAN) and the Coordination gegen BAYER-Gefahren (Coalition against BAYER-Dangers/CBG). Active as a volunteer on the board of Edition Kunst gegen Konzerne (Edition Art against Corporations), the Alternative Savings and Solidarity Fund ProSolidar and the international network of the Coalition against BAYER-Dangers. Founding donor and chairperson of the board of directors of the International ethecon Foundation Ethics & Economics; formerly in the German Coordinating Circle of the European Social Forum. Frequent publications. Awarded with the Business Crime Award 1998, the Prize for Civil Courage 2000 and the Henry Mathews Award in 2011; in 2008 nominated for the Alternative Nobel Prize. (Quoted from inter alia Who's Who/Edition for Germany an Wikipedia/Germany)

<sup>2</sup> Detailed information about the International ethecon Blue Planet Project in the form of a brochure may be ordered free of charge from ethecon.

<sup>3</sup> Speech on the occasion of the bestowal of the two International ethecon Awards 2010 on November 20, 2010 in Berlin.

Heinz Mack and Günther Uecker he founded the epochal ZERO-Kunst (the art group ZERO) and is the creator of Sky Art.<sup>4</sup>

Piene's message in his blue planet cycle: "Keep the Blue Planet green!" His creed is as simple as it is amazing: "Yes, I dream of a better world. Why would I dream of a worse one?"

With their main focus on an international award, Piene and ethecon launched the "International ethecon Blue Planet Project". During the ensuing discussions it became apparent that it is not enough to acknowledge ethically and morally sound actions intended to bring about a better world. It is equally important to condemn misdeeds and dealings which violate and ignore ethics and morals and which are therefore responsible for the ruin of our "Blue Planet." The idea of two complementary prizes was born: the international ethecon-prizes, the positive "Blue Planet Award" and its negative counterpart, the "Black Planet Award".

The two awards are an entity, two sides of the same coin. Together they mirror the status of the ethical principles that define our world. At the same time they illustrate a vision of ethical and moral principles which make possible a world without exploitation and oppression. They denounce ruthlessness, greed, war and environmental destruction; pursue the ideas of solidary, freedom, environmental protection and justice; call for resistance, change and commitment in the interest of these ideals; strive for a sustainable future for our world.

One prize commends commitment to the preservation and rescue of the "Blue Planet" and points out prospects and possible actions, the other condemns the desecration of our world, points out the imminent dawn of a "Black Planet" and exposes complacency and ignorance.

Together, the two international ethecon awards show one thing: there are grounds for hope. Or, in the words of Piene: "More light, more green!"

As a matter of principle, the international ethecon prizes are awarded only to individuals and not to institutions. This is to counteract the increasing systematic anonymization of decision-making for, in a positive as well as a negative sense, it is always individuals who carry responsibility. Especially in the case of negative developments, personal responsibility is gladly hidden behind the facade of institutions and excused by alleged practical constraints which serve as grounds for decisions.

Another important feature of the "Black Planet" trophy is that it is not a valuable piece of art. Instead, it is a cheap disposable product, created by a teenager. Because it is the younger generation whose future is being destroyed. It is the intention of ethecon to show young people that there are adults who take responsibility for their welfare, who care about their future and who make all efforts necessary to assure that the planet is not left to our children and grandchildren as a barren desert.

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<sup>4</sup> More about Otto Piene and his work may be found in the brochure "The International ethecon Blue Planet Project" (may be requested free of charge from ethecon).





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The international ethecon prizes are awarded annually, within a ceremony open to the public, like today. We invite as many socially active personalities as possible to take part. At today's ceremony members of the Anti-Castor (nuclear transport) movement are present, as well as Stuttgart21 (a controversial construction project) activists; we have statements from Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Pro Asyl and other groups from Germany and abroad.

The recipient of the "International ethecon Blue Planet Award" is invited to attend the ceremony and has the opportunity to give a short speech. After a statement by an ethecon representative, explaining the reasons for the choice of the recipient, he or she is then presented with the award. As a guest of the foundation we also offer him or her the possibility to co-operate with the foundation or within our network. The bestowal of the "International ethecon Blue Planet Award" is documented in a dossier, which is translated into three languages and distributed internationally.

The process differs for the "International ethecon Black Planet Award": during the ceremony the bestowal is simply announced. The award winners are informed by means of an open letter circulated internationally in three languages. The detailed justification statement is published in a brochure, which is also distributed in three languages throughout the world. Within six months the recipients are presented with the award during a public demonstration, staged as sensationally as possible. Included in this protest gathering are as many individuals and organisations from international social movements as possible.

It is a telling fact that, as a rule, the individuals "honoured" with the international ethecon Black Planet Award" disdain the trophy. Not one of these censured persons has personally accepted the award and thereby stood up to public criticism. Up until now, only once – in the case of Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, Liliane de Bettencourt as well as other executives and major shareholders of the food industry giant Nestlé in 2006 – was the trophy voluntarily accepted by the recipients. And then by a representative of the press department in front of the main gate to the corporate headquarters in Switzerland. We have no knowledge of what happened to it after that.

In the case of the bestowal of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2009 onto the major shareholders and executives of the Taiwanese chemical and genetic engineering firm Formosa Plastics Group we were witnesses to the destruction of the trophy by security forces, who in a very angry and demonstrative manner threw the award into the rubbish bin.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

"ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics" is a grass-roots foundation within the world-wide anti-corporate and anti-globalisation movements for environmental protection, peace and justice and sus-

tained by activists against corporate power, exploitation, war and environmental destruction. It is connected to world-wide networks and committed to the principles of international solidarity.

The "International ethecon Blue Planet Project", with its two international ethecon prizes, sees itself accordingly as a symbol of this solidarity and these principles. This is expressed not only through the nature of the project and the awards and through the character of the award recipients, but also in the selection procedure for the annual prizes.

The award winners are not selected by the foundation boards alone, but rather in a process of international solidarity. Each spring, thousands of individuals and groups who work actively throughout the world in the fight for peace, justice and environmental protection are asked to suggest award nominees. Later, the names of the award winners and information about the bestowal ceremony are conveyed back to these critical groups.

The integration of the foundation in international movements for peace, environmental protection and justice may be clearly seen in the increasing participation of other groups in the presentation "ceremony" for the "International ethecon Black Planet Award", the networking among these groups becoming consistently better and better. The award is presented in the recipient's city of residence, accompanied by visible protests staged by an increasing number of activist groups. The public flogging of the "Black Planet Award" recipients has become more and more effective through the power and energy of these international movements. In Taiwan, for example, the "International ethecon Black Planet Award 2009" was the object of widespread media coverage for weeks. The defaming of the executives of Formosa Plastics was reported without exception by all the regional media at least twice.

The selection of the annual award receivers on these basic principles, the annual bestowal ceremony in the course of a conference with varying themes pertaining to our responsibility for the preservation of a liveable world, the presentation of the "International ethecon Black Planet Award" - accompanied by international publicity actions - this is the essence of the "International ethecon Blue Planet Project".

When the Blue Planet Award was born in 2005, we needed an accompanying trophy. Otto Piene agreed to cooperate with us and starting in 2006 he created a new trophy each year, the "International ethecon Blue Planet Award", as a valuable and unique glass and wood sculpture.

That is, until the year 2009. Then he asked us – having in the meantime reached the age of 82 – to be relieved of this role. In the person of Katharina Mayer, the great photographic artist and Becher pupil, born in 1958, we found someone who will worthily continue the Blue Planet Project, founded by ethe-



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con and Piene. We are proud to have Katharina Mayer on our team. We will learn more about her later in the programme.<sup>5</sup>

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear friends,

I know we are all curious about this year's award winners, but also about Katharina Mayer, who will speak to us today about the new "International ethecon Blue Planet Award" trophy. In this spirit I wish all of us an engrossing afternoon.

Thank you very much.

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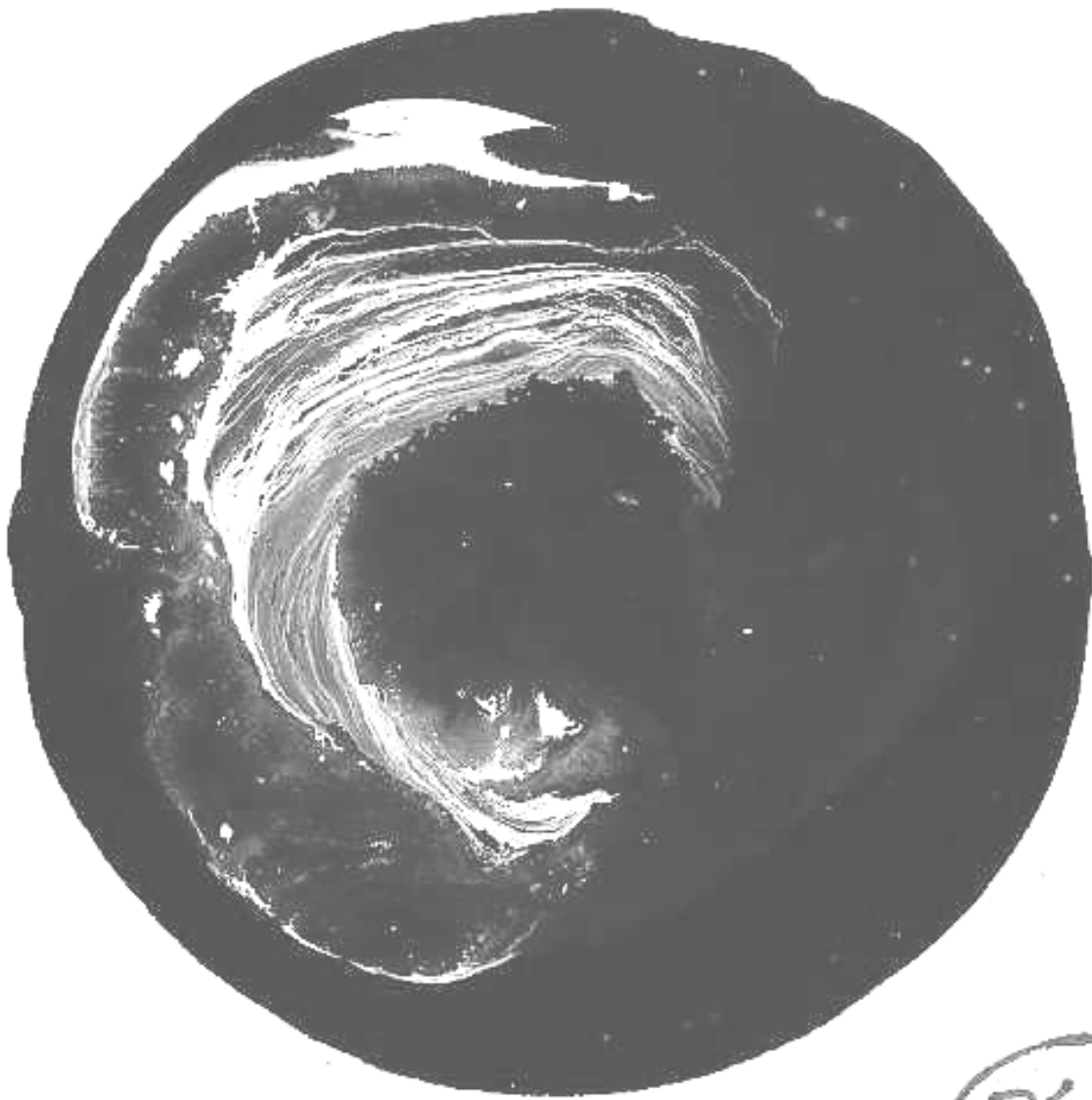
<sup>5</sup> More about Katharina Mayer and her work may be found in the brochure International ethecon Blue Planet Project (may be requested free of charge).



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Piense

¡El planeta azul debe mantenerse verde!

Keep the Blue Planet green!

Der Blaue Planet soll grün bleiben!



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**Excerpt from the statement justifying the censure  
of Tsunehisa Katsumata (chairman),  
Masataka Shimizu (former president),  
Toshio Nishizawa (president),  
as well as further executives and major stockholders  
of the energy company TEPCO/Japan through the bestowal  
of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011<sup>6</sup>**

„... Responsible for the decisions and actions of the TEPCO company are the major shareholders and the executive management. They are accountable for the ruin of human health and the destruction of the environment on a grand scale, as well as for the death of numerous people. They pose a threat not only to peace and human rights, but also to democracy, ecology and humanity as a whole. They act solely in their own interest, for personal power and private wealth. To these ends, they flout morals and ethics and knowingly risk the downfall of the Earth as a Black Planet.

ethecon sees in the actions of the major shareholders, chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata, former president Masataka Shimizu, his successor Toshio Nishizawa and the rest of the executive management a flagrant contribution to the ruin and destruction of our Blue Planet. For this shocking disdain and violation of human ethics ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics condemns the accountable people at the TEPCO company with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011. ...“

Berlin, September 01, 2011<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> For the complete justification of the censure, see the open letter (p. 25).

<sup>7</sup> The ethecon Foundation has deliberately chosen September 1st as the date for the announcement of the winners of the two annual International ethecon Awards. September 1st is World Peace/Anti-War Day in Germany.

## **The winners of the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011**

### **Tsunehisa Katsumata (chairman), Masataka Shimizu (former president), Toshio Nishizawa (president), as well as further executives and major stockholders of the energy company TEPCO/Japan**

The Japanese energy supply company TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) was founded in 1951. It is a stock corporation with head offices in Chiyoda, Tokyo.<sup>8</sup> With an overall number of 53.000 employees, 260 subsidiaries and a turnover equivalent to approx. 45 billion Euro the company is Asia's largest electric power supplier<sup>9</sup> and one of the world's most powerful energy suppliers.<sup>10</sup>

All electricity production companies in Japan were taken over by the state in April 1939 and amalgamated to form nine state-owned companies in 1942. A couple of years after WW II the authorities of Allied Occupation<sup>11</sup> ordered these to be privatized as from 1st May 1951 after consultations with the Japanese Council for Reorganisation of the Electricity Industry. At first, these companies kept their regional monopolies and now, after liberalisation of the electricity market in 1995, they hold virtual regional monopolies.

TEPCO is the largest of these energy producing companies. They produce 27% of the country's energy. The area of their virtual monopoly in the greater Tokyo area covering 45 million inhabitants which is more than one third of the Japanese population. In 2007, TEPCO was ranking as No. 136 among the world's enterprises with the greatest turnover; in Japan they are ranking as No. 13. They are one of the world's 30 worst sources of carbon dioxide emissions. The CO<sup>2</sup>-emissions of their plants amounted to about 62 million tons in 2007.

TEPCO mainly generate their electricity from hydroelectric and thermal power stations as well as from their three nuclear power stations named Fukushima Daiichi, Fukushima Daini and Kashiwazaki Kariwa which contain an overall number of 17 nuclear reactors. Fukushima Daiichi (Fukushima I) started operations in 1971. Fukushima Daini (Fukushima II) followed in 1982 and Kashiwazaki Kariwa in 1985. That means the Fukushima plants are among Japan's oldest nuclear power stations.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> cf. <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tepeco>. Unless indicated otherwise, the following information is mainly based on this source or on [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuklearkatastrophe\\_von\\_Fukushima](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuklearkatastrophe_von_Fukushima).

<sup>9</sup> cf. die tageszeitung dated 13th March 2011.

<sup>10</sup> cf. Stern 14/2011.

<sup>11</sup> In December 1941, the Japanese attacked the Pearl Harbour US naval base in Hawaii. As a result, WW II spread to the Pacific Ocean. Allied troops under the leadership of the US fought against Japan. There was an unconditional surrender by Japan after US-Americans dropped atom bombs on Hiroshima on 6th August and on Nagasaki on 9th August 1945. Officially, the occupation of Japan by Allied forces lasted until 1952. About 92.000 people were killed instantly by both atom bombs on Japan. A further 130.000 died until the end of 1945. Numerous others died from the after effects in the course of the following years cf. [http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atombombenabwürfe\\_auf\\_Hiroshima\\_und\\_Nagasaki](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atombombenabwürfe_auf_Hiroshima_und_Nagasaki).

<sup>12</sup> cf. die tageszeitung dated 13th March 2011.



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The ongoing nuclear disaster of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station started 11th March 2011 with a magnitude 9.0 earthquake on the Richter scale. Its epicentre was off the coast of the north-eastern Miyagi prefecture. This in turn triggered a tsunami which was at least 10 metres tall. In some areas it was even reported to have been up to 38 metres high.<sup>13</sup> As the nuclear power station is situated right on the east coast of Japan it took the full brunt of the tidal wave which was about 13 – 15 metres high in that place. Fukushima I was not connected to the existing tsunami early warning system, so there was no timely warning for the operational staff. The area only had one protective wall towards the sea which was 5.7 metres high (The rules demanded as little as 3.1 metres). Reactor blocks 1 to 4 which are 10 metres above sea level were flooded up to a height of 5 metres whereas blocks 5 and 6 situated on grounds which are three metres higher were flooded no more than one metre.

The result was a vast breakdown of systems, especially of the energy supply due to failure of standby generators, and a lack of cooling for the reactor cores and for the spent fuel rods in their cooling ponds. Their subsequent overheating caused the reactor buildings to be filled with hydrogen and finally three partial meltdowns in reactors 1 to 3. Intentional pressure relief measures were carried out on the reactors which allowed radioactive substances to pollute the environment where they were distributed in various directions by changing winds.

Several explosions occurred in reactors 1 to 4 between 12th and 15th March. Most probably these were hydrogen explosions. They did severe damage to some of the reactor buildings. Highly radioactive debris was thrown all over the grounds of the plant. Water which was extremely contaminated leaked from a damaged safety container. A number of fires flared up to make things worse. In those days on several occasions neutron radiation was measured on the grounds of the plant which is an indication that uncontrolled nuclear fission had restarted in one of the reactors or cooling ponds.

The plant's fire brigade started by pumping their available fresh water into the reactors. It took until the evening of 12th March i.e. almost 30 hours after the disaster had started before they were given permission to use sea water for this. An explanation for this delay are the profit interests of TEPCO company because the influx of sea water damages the reactors and can make them unusable. In close consultation with the government TEPCO tried to safeguard the future usability of the reactors instead of preventing or at least mitigating the emerging catastrophe by all possible means.

Especially during the first days, the radiation level on the plant's ground was enormous. That is why TEPCO considered to give up the power plant and to evacuate all staff. This was forbidden by the Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan, however. A workforce of round about 50 staff members had to stay. Later on there was a reinforcement by 140 helpers of the Tokyo fire brigade who were recruited by

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<sup>13</sup> "38-meter-high tsunami triggered by March 11 quake: survey" in Kyodo News dated 3rd April 2011,  
cf. <http://www.webcitation.org/query?url=http://english.kyodonews.jp/news/2011/04/82888.html&date=2011-06-12>.

force. Some of the workers received even worse radiation when they entered one of the reactor blocks without protective boots. The workers were given no warning even though TEPCO was aware of the highly radioactive water in the reactor blocks.

As a result of exposure to radioactive material and radioactive fallout, radiation levels in agricultural produce from the prefectures of Fukushima and Ibaraki went up to many times the legal level. This caused the Japanese Ministry of Health to issue a number of bans for sale and consumption. There was also warning against drinking contaminated tap water. Even in Tokyo which is 250 kms away the acceptable iodine-131 levels for small children in tap water were exceeded for at least a short period of time.

In the course of containment measures, thousands of tons of contaminated water were poured into the sea which led to sharp protests by Japanese fishermen as well as neighboring states South Korea, Russia and China. At times, the permitted legal levels for radioactive iodine and caesium in sea water were exceeded 50.000 to 200.000-fold. It was possible to measure illegal levels as far away as 15 kms (for iodine) or 30 kms (for caesium). Besides, these pollutants will accumulate in algae on the bottom of the sea where they will enter the food chain – all the way to mankind.

On the International Rating Scale for Nuclear Incidents, the Fukushima incident is ranking on the highest possible stage 7 for a “catastrophic accident”. That means the incident is officially classified as a “Super MCA”<sup>14</sup> (MCA stands for maximum credible accident). For the first time in history, a “nuclear state of emergency” was proclaimed in Japan. According to an estimate of the Japanese Atomic Energy Commission, the amount of radioactive substances which escaped in Fukushima so far is between 10% and 20% of the amount which escaped after the Chernobyl disaster.<sup>15</sup>

From the very onset, crisis management by TEPCO and the Japanese government left a lot to be desired. Both of them were unable to cope. At the same time towards their own population they concealed the situation and the inherent dangers. TEPCO is the main culprit to be blamed for this as the company withheld important information even from the Prime Minister. Besides, TEPCO has a strong influence on many media so it was possible for them to suppress any critical reports for quite a long time. On several occasions TEPCO have denied or ignored damages until they could no longer be overlooked.

The Japanese Armed Forces as well as other organisations hold the opinion that TEPCO utilized their support far too late. Offers of help from the USA, Germany and France were turned down or ac-

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<sup>14</sup> According to the logic of engineers, a “maximum credible accident” (MCA) is manageable. The plants must be designed for it. This is not so in the event of a “Super MCA”. That one is no longer manageable. Scientists assume that such an event is likely to happen once in a million years. During the past 32 years we have already experienced three “Super MCAs”, however. Harrisburg (1979), Chernobyl (1986) and now, in 2011, Fukushima.

<sup>15</sup> According to Vice President Tatsujiro Suzuki cf. Der Spiegel 28/2011.



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cepted only after a considerable delay. Instead, TEPCO recruited their own staff by force, even though they were not from the company's nuclear branch and had no idea about the task they were asked to fulfil.<sup>16</sup>

Evacuation of the population started the same day the accident happened. The evacuation zone was gradually extended to a 20 kilometre radius. This area was later on declared a forbidden zone. Thousands of people have been waiting in temporary dwellings ever since; some were left behind in ghost villages. There is a rising suicide rate.<sup>17</sup> The experts assume that there will be a "death zone" unsuitable as a permanent residence of human beings similar to the one in Chernobyl.<sup>18</sup> Dismantling the damaged reactors is going to take 30 years according to their producer Hitachi.<sup>19</sup> Dismantling cannot start before the reactors have finally cooled down, however.

A short time after the disaster it became known that 10 days before the earthquake and the tsunami the Japanese Nuclear Supervisory Authority NISA had proven serious faults to the TEPCO company with regard to their inspections and maintenance. An overall number of 33 devices and machines in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station had not undergone a thorough control for 11 years. Among these were some decisive devices such as cooling pumps, diesel generators and the reactor blocks' temperature control valves. These faults in the control and maintenance can clearly be attributed to the desire of those responsible in the company to save costs and maximize profits.

Apart from that several design faults of the power station had been known to TEPCO for a long time as engineers, seismologists and supervisory authorities had pointed them out. The design blueprints, for instance, were taken over in a very uncritical manner from General Electric who had originally designed these plants for sites in the US. The design was never adapted to conditions in Japan. Cooling systems were designed to withstand no more than an earthquake with a magnitude 8 on the Richter scale. There was no consideration for the possible danger of a tsunami. Instead, the power plant was built right on the beach.

In 1974, construction faults in the boiler of reactor block 4 which was worth 250 million \$ were camouflaged instead of scrapping it which would have been according to the law. It was two years after the Chernobyl disaster when engineer Mitsuhiko Tanaka reported this construction fault to the Japanese government. He had helped to camouflage the matter and had received a high bonus from the Hitachi company as well as Hitachi's medal of honour. Hitachi and TEPCO called Tanaka a liar. He and his family

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<sup>16</sup> cf. Der Spiegel 14/2011.

<sup>17</sup> cf. Der Spiegel 31/2011.

<sup>18</sup> cf. die tageszeitung dated 9th Sept. 2011.

<sup>19</sup> cf. Der Spiegel 20/2011.

received anonymous murder threats on the phone.<sup>20</sup> The government declined to carry out an investigation of his accusations.

Groups of inspectors from the General Electric company who took part in the construction of several Fukushima reactors were pressurized by TEPCO people and forced not to mention deficits and breaches of security precautions in their reports.<sup>21</sup>

There were even internal TEPCO reports with an assessment of the turbine buildings and the standby generators in these buildings stating that these have insufficient protection against water. But no modification measures were ever considered for reasons of cost and the public image. Those responsible would never admit wrong decisions. The safety of the Japanese population came second after the financial interests of the company and its shareholders.

It was as early as 1990 that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) who are responsible for the safety of nuclear power in the US warned of the failure of standby generators and hence of the cooling systems in power stations in areas which are vulnerable to earthquakes. The Japanese NISA quoted from this report in 2004. TEPCO never reacted to these warnings and never initiated the appropriate measures. Even though a seismologist had warned of the consequences of earthquakes and of their frequency and magnitude – and even though a member of the national parliament as well as another seismologist had warned of the danger of tsunamies the TEPCO board of director ignored all of that.

The accidents of March 2011 could have been avoided by better protection of the standby generators against extraordinary earthquakes and high tsunamies. But that would have meant investments which those responsible for TEPCO were obviously not willing to make.

There had been other disturbing incidents at TEPCO before the March 2011 disaster. In 2002 it became known that for more than 16 years representatives of the company had falsified reports about repairs carried out in the nuclear power stations and that and in hundreds of cases they failed to notify the supervisory authorities about incidents with a safety relevance. The TEPCO board of directors admitted the forgeries, resigned and was replaced. Then Tsunehisa Katsumata became new president and the company's chief executive. All the company's nuclear power stations were shut down and checked for weeks before they were gradually restarted.

The new board of directors did not change matters very much because since that time there have been at least 6 emergency shutdowns of Fukushima I as well as a critical reaction in one of the reactor blocks which lasted several hours. These occurrences were also kept secret.

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<sup>20</sup> cf. Stern 14/2011.

<sup>21</sup> cf. ibd.

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and the major shareholders of TEPCO / Japan

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Kashiwazaki-Kariwa, which is the company's biggest power station, had to be shut down for almost two years after the coastal earthquake of 2007. Contrary to their initial allegations TEPCO had to admit later on that radioactive materials had reached the environment via waste water. The quake had accelerated the ground two and a half times more than expected because TEPCO had to admit that they had not been aware of a geological fault line directly below the nuclear plant.<sup>22</sup> As a result, the enterprise had to report a loss for the first time in three decades. So Tsunehisa Katsumata resigned as president and was made chairman instead. Masataka Shimizu became his successor as the company's chief executive.

There had been an almost-meltdown in reactor 2 of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station on 17th June 2010. It was caused by a complete electricity blackout followed by a low cooling water level. The antinuclear alliance "Fukushima Network for No Nukes" issued a petition calling for proper public information about the incident, research into its causes and preventive measures. TEPCO declared towards the alliance that the problems were caused by their own generator. But to the governor of Fukushima those responsible for the company later on declared that the cause was malfunctioning of the external power supply.<sup>23</sup> In spite of these occurrences there were obviously no additional backup systems for emergency power supply installed in the Fukushima nuclear plant. Whereas there was only one single backup in Fukushima Daiichi, up to 4 independent systems in modern plants make sure that the fuel rods are kept cool after a rapid shutdown.<sup>24</sup>

Another criticism which has basically been known for quite some time but never had the public attention it deserves is the fact that TEPCO are among those Japanese companies who employ homeless people and people in need for cleaning up their nuclear plants. In the course of three decades, beggars, petty criminals, immigrants and poor people were recruited to do the most risky jobs in nuclear power stations. During that time, between 700 and 1.000 homeless people have died; thousands more of these "nuclear slaves" have fallen ill from cancer.<sup>25</sup> Usually they are not directly employed by TEPCO (or any other company) but instead by subcontractors. There have been several public prosecutions against TEPCO for this as an operator of several nuclear power stations.

TEPCO is everywhere. The company pays research and the media - mainly for polishing up their own public image – and built a huge electricity museum in the middle of a busy Tokyo shopping area.<sup>26</sup> As a result, TEPCO is one of the main taboos in the Japanese media.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> cf. die tageszeitung dated 13th March 2011.

<sup>23</sup> according to information from Attac Japan.

<sup>24</sup> cf. die tageszeitung dated 13th March 2011.

<sup>25</sup> As early as 2003, David Jiménez wrote about this scandal in the supplement of the Spanish daily newspaper "El mundo". "SoZ" published the updated report in their June 2011 edition entitled "The real victims of atomic energy. Japan's nuclear slaves. The terrible secret of nuclear power station operating companies".

<sup>26</sup> cf. Der Spiegel 21/2011.

<sup>27</sup> cf. Stern 14/2011.

There is a triangle in Japan called “the nuclear village” (in Japanese “Genshiryoku Mura”) consisting of TEPCO, the government and pro-nuclear power experts. The nuclear departments of TEPCO, the relevant departments of the Ministry of the Interior as well as scientists, politicians and journalists are part of it. Together they promote and spread nuclear power. At the same time, experts who are opposed to nuclear power are not promoted to top positions.<sup>28</sup> And in addition to this there is a revolving door effect: Staff members from the Ministries change over to TEPCO and vice versa.

The trade union responsible for TEPCO is the Federation of Elected Power Related Industry Workers Union of Japan. They are the biggest and a very powerful trade union – and at the same time they are controlled by the company. Ever since they were founded they have advocated nuclear power stations. The current administration by the Democratic Party (DPJ) has the support of this trade union. It is where several members of parliament have their origins, too. Nobody can expect a serious control of TEPCO from that direction. The management of TEPCO are also among the most prominent donators to the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). None of these two parties has ever dared to adopt an anti-nuclear stance so far.<sup>29</sup>

So even after the Fukushima disaster, the new Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda thinks a nuclear phase-out is “a pipe dream” and urges that all the nuclear power stations are to be reconnected to the national grid after the promised stress testing.<sup>30</sup> But the problem of the affinity of political institutions to nuclear power is by no means confined to Japan. The EU, for instance, raised the critical limit value for radioactivity in food in Europe to an unbearable level after the Fukushima disaster – with full acceptance of the resulting damages to the health of the population.<sup>31</sup>

Camouflaging is made very easy for the Japanese nuclear industry – to the detriment of those who are affected and to the detriment of the entire Japanese population. In that sense, TEPCO did no more than carry on “an old tradition” during the Fukushima disaster and its aftermath. The main deficit lies with the NISA who are responsible as a nuclear and industrial security agency for the supervision of the nuclear industry. They are subordinate to Meti, the Japanese Ministry of the Economy who promote the use of nuclear power and are also responsible for ANRE, the subcommittee for nuclear energy. There is a resulting clash of interests. ANRE look after cooperation with Japanese electricity companies including TEPCO.<sup>32</sup>

Whereas in the beginning it was the state acting as the driving force for the introduction and expansion of nuclear power, meanwhile the nuclear industry, power suppliers, parties and scientists have

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<sup>28</sup> An example for this is Hiroaki Koide who was not promoted to the position of a Professor of Kyoto University due to his antinuclear stance (information from Attac Japan).

<sup>29</sup> cf. Der Spiegel 21/2011.

<sup>30</sup> cf. die tageszeitung dated 12th Sept. 2011.

<sup>31</sup> cf. Jana Frielinghaus: „Calculated Death from Radiation“, junge Welt dated 21st Sept. 2011.

<sup>32</sup> cf. Der Spiegel 21/2011.



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and the major shareholders of TEPCO / Japan

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created an untouchable sanctuary in the Japanese consensus society. This has turned into a threat to democracy.<sup>33</sup> The TEPCO company has more than its share in this development.

On the occasion of the TEPCO stockholders' meeting in late June 2011, the company's president Masataka Shimizu resigned and was replaced by former managing director Toshio Nishizawa as a reaction to the March 2011 Fukushima disaster. Tsunehisa Katsumata kept his position as chairman, however.

Responsible for the decisions and actions of the TEPCO company are the major shareholders and the executive management. They are accountable for the ruin of human health and the destruction of the environment on a grand scale, as well as for the death of numerous people. They pose a threat not only to peace and human rights, but also to democracy, ecology and humanity as a whole. They act solely in their own interest, for personal power and private wealth. To these ends, they flout morals and ethics and knowingly risk the downfall of the Earth as a "Black Planet".

ethecon sees in the actions of the major shareholders, chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata, former president Masataka Shimizu, his successor Toshio Nishizawa and the rest of the executive management a flagrant contribution to the ruin and destruction of our Blue Planet. For this shocking disdain and violation of human ethics ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics condemns the accountable people at the TEPCO company with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011.

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<sup>33</sup> cf. ibd.

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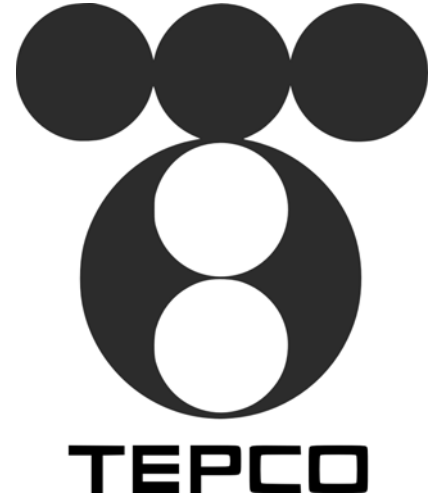
### Contact details for the award winners

Tsunehisa Katsumata (Chairman)  
Masataka Shimizu (President)  
Takashi Fujimoto (Vice President)  
Sakae Muto (Vice President)

The Tokyo Electric Power Company, Incorporated (TEPCO)

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Chiyoda-ku  
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Japan

Phone +81 - 3 - 35 01 - 81 11  
Internet <http://www.TEPCO.co.jp/>  
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Toshio Nishizawa, other responsible executives  
and the major shareholders of TEPCO / Japan

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### **Selected internet links**

<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/TEPCO>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo\\_Electric\\_Power\\_Company](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo_Electric_Power_Company)

<http://www.spiegel.de/thema/TEPCO/>

<http://www.spiegel.de/thema/fukushima/>

<http://www.greenpeace.org/japan>

<http://www.jca.apc.org/attac-jp>

<http://www.greens.gr.jp/>

<http://www.cnrc.jp/english/>

<http://www.foejapan.org/en/>

<http://www.greenaction-japan.org/>

<http://nonukes.wordpress/>

<http://a4nr.org/>

### **Individuals and non-governmental organisations concerned with TEPCO (selected)**

- > CNIC  
Citizens' Nuclear Information Center  
Akebonobashi Co-op 2F-B  
8-5 Sumiyoshi-cho  
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0065  
Japan  
Phone +81 - 3 - 33 57 - 38 00  
Fax +81 - 3 - 33 57 - 38 01  
eMail [cnic@nifty.com](mailto:cnic@nifty.com)  
Internet [www.cnic.jp/english/](http://www.cnic.jp/english/)
  
- > Green Action  
Suite103, 22-75 Tanaka Sekiden-cho  
Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8203  
Japan  
Phone +81 - 75 - 701 72 23  
Fax +81 - 75 - 702 19 52  
eMail [info@greenaction-japan.org](mailto:info@greenaction-japan.org)  
Internet [www.greenaction-japan.org/](http://www.greenaction-japan.org/)
  
- > Friends of the Earth Japan  
International Environmental NGO  
3-30-8-1F Ikebukuro  
Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171-0014  
Japan  
Phone +81 - 3 - 69 07 - 72 17  
Fax +81 - 3 - 69 07 - 72 19  
eMail [info@foejapan.org](mailto:info@foejapan.org)  
Internet [www.foejapan.org/en/](http://www.foejapan.org/en/)

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> CRMS

Citizen's Radioactivity Measuring Station

Fukushima-shi Pasenaka

Misse 1F 8-8

Okitamacho

Japan

eMail [info@crms-jpn.com](mailto:info@crms-jpn.com)

Internet [www.crms-jpn.com/](http://www.crms-jpn.com/)

> Greens Japan

2-3-4 Koenji-Kita #404

Suginami, Tokyo 166-0002

Japan

Phone +81 - 3 - 33 38 - 85 87

Mobil +81 - 80 - 52 59 - 15 58

eMail [greens@@greens.gr.jp](mailto:greens@@greens.gr.jp)

Internet [www.greens.gr.jp/](http://www.greens.gr.jp/)

> Greenpeace Japan

NF-Bldg. 2F

Nishi-Shinjuku

Tokyo 160-0023

Japan

Phone +81 - 3 - 53 38 - 98 00

Fax +81 - 3 - 53 38 - 98 17

eMail [info.jp@greenpeace.org](mailto:info.jp@greenpeace.org)

Internet [www.greenpeace.org/japan](http://www.greenpeace.org/japan)

> ATTAC Japan

Seiwa-Bldg 1F-A

1-21-7 Kanda-awajicho

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0063

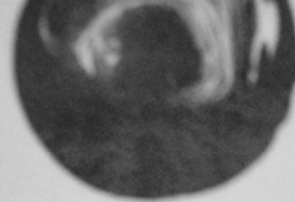
Japan

Phone +81 - 3 - 32 55 - 59 10

eMail [attac-jp@jca.apc.org](mailto:attac-jp@jca.apc.org)

Internet [www.jca.apc.org/attac-jp](http://www.jca.apc.org/attac-jp)

2011



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**Tsunehisha Katsumata**

Chairman TEPCO

**Masataka Shimizu**

Former president TEPCO

**Toshio Nishizawa**

President TEPCO

as well as the rest of the executive management and the major shareholders of the multinational corporation Tokyo Electric Power Company

**TEPCO/Japan**

are censured with the

## International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011

These people are responsible for the decisions and operations of the BP company. They are accountable for the ruin of the environment and the destruction of the lives of numerous people. They have acted against the principles of democracy, ecology and human rights. They have used their own personal power and authority to act recklessly and knowingly risk the lives of others. Their actions are a flagrant violation of the principles of the Foundation Ethics.

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Black Planet Award 2011.



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International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011  
for Tsunehisa Katsumata, Masataka Shimizu und  
Toshio Nishizawa, other responsible executives  
and the major shareholders of TEPCO / Japan

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**Open letter  
to Chairman Tsunehisa Katsumata,  
former president Masataka Shimizu,  
president Toshio Nishizawa,  
other members of the executive management,  
and major shareholders of TEPCO**

Dear Mr. Katsumata,  
Dear Mr. Shimizu,  
Dear Mr. Nishizawa,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the course of our public conference in Berlin on November 19, 2011, we will present the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011. In a comprehensive nomination and selection procedure before the conference, we had chosen all of you as recipients of the „Black Planet Award 2011“. With this decision we aim to expose and criticize you on an international scale.

Our foundation based its decision on news reports over many months about the environmental disaster in Fukushima for which you were responsible, as well as on publicly known facts, information compiled world-wide by journalists over the course of many years, documents accessible to the general public, investigations by judicial and government authorities in various countries and not least, on information published by your own company.

In summary, ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics states the following reasons for its decision:

The ongoing nuclear disaster of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station started 11th March 2011 with a magnitude 9.0 earthquake on the Richter scale. Its epicentre was off the coast of the north-eastern Miyagi prefecture. This in turn triggered a tsunami which was at least 10 metres tall. In some areas it was even reported to have been up to 38 metres high. As the nuclear power station is situated right on the east coast of Japan it took the full brunt of the tidal wave which was about 13 – 15 metres high in that place. Fukushima I was not connected to the existing tsunami early warning system, so there was no timely warning for the operational staff. The area only had one protective wall towards the sea which was 5.7 metres high (The rules demanded as little as 3.1 metres). Reactor blocks 1 to 4 which are 10 metres above sea level were flooded up to a height of 5 metres whereas blocks 5 and 6 situated on grounds which are three metres higher were flooded no more than one metre.

The result was a vast breakdown of systems, especially of the energy supply due to failure of standby generators, and a lack of cooling for the reactor cores and for the spent fuel rods in their cooling ponds. Their subsequent overheating caused the reactor buildings to be filled with hydrogen and

finally three partial meltdowns in reactors 1 to 3. Intentional pressure relief measures were carried out on the reactors which allowed radioactive substances to pollute the environment where they were distributed in various directions by changing winds.

Several explosions occurred in reactors 1 to 4 between 12th and 15th March. Most probably these were hydrogen explosions. They did severe damage to some of the reactor buildings. Highly radioactive debris was thrown all over the grounds of the plant. Water which was extremely contaminated leaked from a damaged safety container. A number of fires flared up to make things worse. In those days on several occasions neutron radiation was measured on the grounds of the plant which is an indication that uncontrolled nuclear fission had restarted in one of the reactors or cooling ponds.

The plant's fire brigade started by pumping their available fresh water into the reactors. It took until the evening of 12th March i.e. almost 30 hours after the disaster had started before they were given permission to use sea water for this. An explanation for this delay are the profit interests of TEPCO company because the influx of sea water damages the reactors and can make them unusable. In close consultation with the government TEPCO tried to safeguard the future usability of the reactors instead of preventing or at least mitigating the emerging catastrophe by all possible means.

Especially during the first days, the radiation level on the plant's ground was enormous. That is why TEPCO considered to give up the power plant and to evacuate all staff. This was forbidden by the Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan, however. A workforce of round about 50 staff members had to stay. Later on there was a reinforcement by 140 helpers of the Tokyo fire brigade who were recruited by force. Some of the workers received even worse radiation when they entered one of the reactor blocks without protective boots. The workers were given no warning even though TEPCO was aware of the highly radioactive water in the reactor blocks.

In the course of containment measures, thousands of tons of contaminated water were poured into the sea which led to sharp protests by Japanese fishermen as well as neighboring states South Korea, Russia and China. At times, the permitted legal levels for radioactive iodine and caesium in sea water were exceeded 50.000 to 200.000-fold. It was possible to measure illegal levels as far away as 15 kms (for iodine) or 30 kms (for caesium). Besides, these pollutants will accumulate in algae on the bottom of the sea where they will enter the food chain – all the way to mankind.

On the International Rating Scale for Nuclear Incidents, the Fukushima incident is ranking on the highest possible stage 7 for a "catastrophic accident". That means the incident is officially classified as a "Super MCA" (MCA stands for maximum credible accident). For the first time in history, a "nuclear state of emergency" was proclaimed in Japan. According to an estimate of the Japanese Atomic Energy Commission, the amount of radioactive substances which escaped in Fukushima so far is between 10% and 20% of the amount which escaped after the Chernobyl disaster.

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Toshio Nishizawa, other responsible executives  
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From the very onset, crisis management by TEPCO and the Japanese government left a lot to be desired. Both of them were unable to cope. At the same time towards their own population they concealed the situation and the inherent dangers. TEPCO is the main culprit to be blamed for this as the company withheld important information even from the Prime Minister. Besides, TEPCO has a strong influence on many media so it was possible for them to suppress any critical reports for quite a long time. On several occasions TEPCO have denied or ignored damages until they could no longer be overlooked.

The Japanese Armed Forces as well as other organisations hold the opinion that TEPCO utilized their support far too late. Offers of help from the USA, Germany and France were turned down or accepted only after a considerable delay. Instead, TEPCO recruited their own staff by force, even though they were not from the company's nuclear branch and had no idea about the task they were asked to fulfil.

A short time after the disaster it became known that 10 days before the earthquake and the tsunami the Japanese Nuclear Supervisory Authority NISA had proven serious faults to the TEPCO company with regard to their inspections and maintenance. An overall number of 33 devices and machines in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station had not undergone a thorough control for 11 years. Among these were some decisive devices such as cooling pumps, diesel generators and the reactor blocks' temperature control valves. These faults in the control and maintenance can clearly be attributed to the desire of those responsible in the company to save costs and maximize profits.

Apart from that several design faults of the power station had been known to TEPCO for a long time as engineers, seismologists and supervisory authorities had pointed them out. The design blueprints, for instance, were taken over in a very uncritical manner from General Electric who had originally designed these plants for sites in the US. The design was never adapted to conditions in Japan. Cooling systems were designed to withstand no more than an earthquake with a magnitude 8 on the Richter scale. There was no consideration for the possible danger of a tsunami. Instead, the power plant was built right on the beach.

There had been other disturbing incidents at TEPCO before the March 2011 disaster. In 2002 it became known that for more than 16 years representatives of the company had falsified reports about repairs carried out in the nuclear power stations and that and in hundreds of cases they failed to notify the supervisory authorities about incidents with a safety relevance. The TEPCO board of directors admitted the forgeries, resigned and was replaced. Then Tsunehisa Katsumata became new president and the company's chief executive. All the company's nuclear power stations were shut down and checked for weeks before they were gradually restarted.

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Another criticism which has basically been known for quite some time but never had the public attention it deserves is the fact that TEPCO are among those Japanese companies who employ homeless people and people in need for cleaning up their nuclear plants. In the course of three decades, beggars, petty criminals, immigrants and poor people were recruited to do the most risky jobs in nuclear power stations. During that time, between 700 and 1.000 homeless people have died; thousands more of these "nuclear slaves" have fallen ill from cancer. Usually they are not directly employed by TEPCO (or any other company) but instead by subcontractors. There have been several public prosecutions against TEPCO for this as an operator of several nuclear power stations.

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Whereas in the beginning it was the state acting as the driving force for the introduction and expansion of nuclear power, meanwhile the nuclear industry, power suppliers, parties and scientists have created an untouchable sanctuary in the Japanese consensus society. This has turned into a threat to democracy. The TEPCO company has more than its share in this development.





International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011  
for Tsunehisa Katsumata, Masataka Shimizu und  
Toshio Nishizawa, other responsible executives  
and the major shareholders of TEPCO / Japan

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You, the major shareholders and the executive management, are the ones responsible for the decisions and operations of the TEPCO company. You are accountable for the ruin of human health and the destruction of the environment on a grand scale as well as for the death of many people. Your actions and decisions pose a threat not only to peace and human rights, but also to democracy, ecology and humanity as a whole. You act solely for your own personal gain. To reach this end, you flout morals and ethics and knowingly risk the transformation of our blue planet into a black one.

In your actions ethecon sees a flagrant contribution to the ruin and destruction of our blue planet. For this contempt and violation of human ethics, ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics – denounces you with the International ethecon Black Planet Award 2011.

We cannot go without mentioning that the bestowal of the Black Planet Award 2011 on you, the accountable people within the TEPCO company, occurs in combination with the Blue Planet Award 2011, which was conferred on human rights activist Prof. Angela Davis. In comparison to you, who irresponsibly endanger and ruin our Blue Planet, Prof. Davis promotes the preservation and rescue of our Blue Planet and its inhabitants in an exemplary manner.

We call on you to model your personal involvement on the example set by women and men such as Angela Davis. Put an end to the exploitation and the destruction of humanity and the environment through the TEPCO company. Ensure social equality, safety and human rights within the company and throughout its whole field of influence. Preserve the environment and peace. Use your money for ethical investments and solidarity projects instead of using it to make even more profits, this last appeal representing the will of the vast majority of the world population.

This is the appeal, coupled with the Black Planet Award 2011, with which ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics, addresses you, the accountable managers and shareholders of the TEPCO company.

November 18, 2011 - Berlin

Yours sincerely,

Axel Köhler-Schnura  
(Chairperson, Board of Directors)

Elke von der Beeck  
(Chairperson, Board of Trustees)

### **Diatribes by Prof. Dr. Elmar Altvater<sup>34</sup> (Germany)**

- the spoken word prevails -

A eulogy, a laudation, is easier and more satisfying to give than a castigating speech. And to make matters worse, this speech is to be about a company and its management which are far away from me, and this not only in a geographical sense. Hundreds of thousands of Japanese citizens also gave no thought to the plant producing their electricity – until March 11, 2011, when the earth quaked and set off a devastating tsunami, a deluge that destroyed the atomic power plant of Daiichi Fukushima, a facility which had been built directly on the beach, a mere 11 meters above sea level. A natural catastrophe plus an atomic MCA, the maximum credible accident. A terrible disaster, for which no one can be held responsible? Is this but a further sign that every day we use forms of energy and techniques whose horizons go beyond human imagination and the range of control we have over the processes of energy conversion and their consequences?

Not quite. The fact that the combination of an earthquake and a tsunami could lead to a nuclear disaster worse than the one in Chernobyl is also a result of the decisions made by TEPCO's management before and after the nuclear catastrophe in Fukushima. The highly respected Japanese Sustainable Management Forum - without being polemical - labeled these decisions faulty and inappropriate. Responsible for the disaster are the chairman of the largest Japanese utility company TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Corporation) which operates the Daiichi Fukushima nuclear power plant, Tsunehisa Katsumata; the former company president Masataka Shimizu; the current president Toshio Nishizawa.

The TEPCO people have brought suffering and sorrow to hundreds of thousands of their fellow countrymen. They carry responsibility for serious radiation-induced health problems, as well as for the fact that large areas of the country will remain uninhabitable for a long time and that radioactive substances with indeterminable effects and in unknown quantity could get into the food chain. In short, the accursed TEPCO people are responsible for the largest maximum credible accident in nuclear history. This MCA didn't have to happen, and it shouldn't have happened. To call it a second Chernobyl is an understatement. Fukushima tops Chernobyl by a long shot. These are the reasons why a censure speech is not only justified, but mandatory. What happened in Fukushima under the responsibility of TEPCO's managers must not be repeated.

At the beginning of November 2011 - eight months after the MCA – journalists were allowed to see the nuclear ruins for the first time. Wearing protective suits, as, according to the dosimeters, the radiation measures 300 microSievert per hour. This means that in Fukushima, one is exposed in three hours

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<sup>34</sup> Prof. Dr. Elmar Altvater is a political scientist and professor emeritus at the Otto-Suhr-Institute of the Free University of Berlin. He is a member of the academic advisory board and a founding member of the "Institut Solidarische Moderne". He is a judge at the Permanent Peoples Tribunal/PPT and was its chairperson in 2006.

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for Tsunehisa Katsumata, Masataka Shimizu und  
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to a degree of radiation deemed the maximum tolerable dosage for a whole year. Almost three quarters of a year after the disaster, even the best rhetoricians - such as Masao Yoshida from the management of the Fukushima hulk, who TEPCO sent to the media front to reassure the public, had to admit that, „There is still danger“, and that the cleanup would last another 20 years. 20 years, despite the fact that in this nuclear wreckage 480,000 suits of protective clothing had already been used up in the past eight months. These suits had to be stored as hazardous nuclear waste on the property, because in Japan as in Germany and other countries no appropriate final repository exists. (see: International Herald Tribune, Nov. 14, 2011). And whether 20 years will be enough time to complete the clean-up is by all means questionable. Especially if we compare it with the small nuclear power plant in Rheinsberg in northern Brandenburg - 60 years have been scheduled for its decommission.

At the same time it must be emphasized that not only TEPCO's management carries the responsibility for the long-term contamination of large areas of Japan and the Pacific Ocean, the full effects of which we will see only in the future. The nucleocratic system includes many other „character masks“ of a brand of capitalism which refuses to be fettered by anything that would keep it from making the largest possible profits; even while the earth quakes, waters rise to great floods and nuclear fuel rods melt. TEPCO is a huge company with more than 50,000 employees, not withstanding the subcontractors. TEPCO operates 17 nuclear power plants, not only in Japan, and belongs after EDF, EON and RWE to the four largest nuclear companies in the world. The share capital is held by the city of Tokyo, large Japanese life insurance companies and banks.

The disaster, which the TEPCO managers responsible for it didn't prevent, could have been avoided – even if these said managers had operated solely on the principles of obstinate capitalistic economics without regard for ecological foresightedness, social responsibility, economic stability, political considerations or out of respect for nature. The company – like other companies – was trying to maximize profits. However, the resulting cost pressure did not have to lead in Fukushima to sloppy maintenance and the curtailing of operational controls. They could have stuck to the precautionary principle that became international law in 1992. The handling of uranium fuel rods is in a different category than automobile assembly. For a long time, TEPCO had been recklessly operating on the brink of a nuclear catastrophe in order to cut maintenance costs and maximize profits.

The Daiichi Fukushima plant was designed to withstand earthquakes measuring only up to 8 on the Richter scale, as stronger earthquakes had conveniently been deemed impossible and were accordingly out of TEPCO's range of sight and thus also not provided for in the company's budget. Neither was the risk of possible tsunamis taken into consideration when making the decision to build so close to the shore. After March 11, 2011 this proved to be a fatal misjudgment about which one can only shake his head. The nuclear power plant was built just a few meters above sea level directly on the shore. The cooling systems and the emergency generators were insufficient from the very beginning. Added to

these structural deficiencies were sloppy operating practices and deceitful falsifications in maintenance reports sent to the inspection agencies. The „Financial Times Deutschland“ entitled an article about TEPCO: „Japan's fraudulent energy giant“ (March 3, 2011). Thus it was not only a „normal catastrophe“ (Sidney Perrow), that, so to speak, escalates during human interaction, when unintended consequences of intentional actions get out of control.

That's enough, one would think. That's enough, but it is not enough for TEPCO. The company's deceitful practices were done intentionally by the management. This cannot be masked by the fact that after the disaster the same men came running with their tails between their legs, offering apologies to the victims.

Even without a major accident, the ongoing operations of the Fukushima plant pose constant risks, especially to the „life-ware“, the term used by Robert Jungk in 1977 in his book about the „Atomic State“ to refer to „radiation fodder“ and „neutron fodder“. TEPCO has outsourced the most risky work to subcontractors and has hired homeless and destitute people to do cleaning work. Between 700 and 1000 of them have supposedly died as a result of radiation. It is not known how many are afflicted with cancer. The people at TEPCO responsible for the health of the employees have acted just as irresponsibly as the European nucleocracy. They gambled with the life and health of many people with the foremost goal to increase the profits from their nuclear investment and to preserve nucleocracy as a means of keeping political and economic power.

Nucleocracy equals an atomic arena with big utility companies, political parties, the media, obliging scientists, and this not only in Japan, but worldwide. In this respect, Robert Jungk and other critics of the atomic age were clairvoyant and farsighted: nucleocracy is a big threat to democracy, even in a country like Japan which had a devastating experience with the atom bomb in Nagasaki and Hiroshima. TEPCO is not just a company with an overextended and incompetent management that lost control, and not only a company responsible for the biggest nuclear catastrophe in history. TEPCO and the global nucleocracy represent a political time-bomb for democracy.

This time-bomb must be defused, but how? A solution could be the socialization of ownership with the control of the facility in the hands of the employees and others who are now dependent on TEPCO. These people must have the chance to be a part of the decision making that greatly effects their lives today and in the future. Above all, decisions regarding a technology whose consequences extend into millenniums to come should not be based on short-term financial yields. This, however, is not enough. The horrendous disaster of Daiichi Fukushima has underlined the urgency for the immediate exit from nuclear energy. The nuclear age, that began with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, must have found its end on March 11, 2011 in Fukushima.

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However, the opposition against immediate nuclear withdrawal is substantial. We are now experiencing this in Germany. Eight months after the catastrophe in Japan, the nuclear company EON is legally fighting the exit decision and is demanding millions in damage compensation, because the decision to shut down nuclear power plants has caused the company millions in write-down losses. If the company wins its case and receives compensation, then it is absolutely necessary that the court order it to set aside sufficient funds to cover the costs of possible future disasters such as Fukushima. Up until now, no insurance company has been willing to insure the risks of nuclear meltdown and radiation. These reserves would surely be higher than the compensation claimed for foregone profits as a result of the shutdown decision of May 2011. They would mean economic ruin for the company.

Will the TEPCO management and global nucleocracy be impressed by a castigating speech and by the solid arguments of the anti-nuclear activists throughout the world? Hardly. This is why we must fight for the end of nuclear power. This works best when demands are accompanied by positive signals. We already have many examples for the use of renewable energy in the form of wind, water, photovoltaics, solar heat, biomass. These sources of energy must be further developed in order to win back energy autonomy from the TEPCOs of this world and from nucleocracy and fossocracy and to get out of the snares of nuclear economy. This has global implications, for in the world of 2011, there are 436 nuclear power plants in operation and many more are in the planning stage. The IEA, for example, anticipates the use of nuclear power throughout its whole planning period lasting until 2035. According to the IEA's World Energy Outlook from November 2011, when fossil fuel starts to run short and its use has to be curtailed in order to keep average temperatures from rising more than 2°C - as any further rise in temperature would really mean a climate catastrophe - , nuclear power could serve as a kind of interim solution despite Fukushima. So we see that the fossil-nuclear energy system will continue on despite all the disasters.

The atomic age began with the confirmation of the fissility of the atomic nucleus in 1938 and with the destruction of the two Japanese metropolises Hiroshima and Nagasaki by US atom bombs in 1945. In the following years, the optimistic motto of „atoms for peace“ raised hopes, even in Japan. The overcoming of energy shortage seemed within reach. At the same time, during the Cold War the nuclear threat of reciprocal annihilation among the power blocks grew at an alarming pace. „Exterminism“, the self-obliteration of humanity, was the name given to the political concept of atomic lunacy by the British historian E. P. Thompson.

At least the catastrophe in far-off Japan prompted Germany's nucleocratic government in March 2011 to temporarily shut down a few nuclear power plants, despite the fact that – against all reason - in September 2010 it had decided to increase the working life span of the reactors by eight to 14 years. It then later authorized the total withdrawal from nuclear energy by 2022 after considering the recommendations of an ethics committee.

This is a vacillating procession by the conservative German government; however, compared to the reactions to the Fukushima-syndrome in other countries, it is a big step forward. South Korea is still planning to export nuclear reactors to any country that is solvent. China is sticking with nuclear energy, Russia as well, even the USA is still relying on nuclear power. Therefore, we can expect that in the next decades, new plants will be added to the 436 nuclear sites currently in use.

We are now in the midst of a societal discussion of global proportion and historical consequence. Not only the withdrawal from nuclear energy is on the agenda. We must also leave the fossil fuel energy system behind us, if planet earth is have a future hospitable to human beings, if the „good life“ is to have a chance. Fossil fuels such as gas and oil and even coal are running out. In the summer of 2010 we experienced the tragic explosion of the oil platform Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico. In view of this major disaster, we can no longer look to so-called non-conventional deep-sea oil to solve energy shortage, even though throughout the world everything is being done to tap the last non-conventional fossil fuel reserves. Oil is also life-endangering, although in a different way than atomic energy - in Iraq, in Libya, and even in Sudan or in Nigeria wars are being fought over access to oil. The powers behind fossil and nuclear energy are conservative. They hold on to old organizational structures. This is their capital and it must yield the highest possible profits - the costs are carried by the customers. However, the International Energy Agency made it clear in its newest World Energy Outlook from November 2011 that the use of fossil fuels cannot be increased due to the resulting consequences for the global climate. If the effects of fossil fuel on the climate are to be contained, no new fossil fuel power plant may be connected to the grid after 2016.

At this point nucleocracy speaks up and offers nuclear power as an alternative. This shows once again to what pathological degree the nuclear and fossil fuel energy systems are intertwined. The withdrawal from nuclear energy is only a partial answer as long as no efforts are made to withdraw from the fossil fuel system as well, and vice versa. For when the dependence on and the demand for fossil fuels increase, when „Peak-oil“, „Peak-gas“ and „Peak-coal“ have run out and the necessary supply can only be expanded through the use of non-conventional extraction methods, massive environmental damages and severe - also military - conflicts will threaten our very existence. Therefore the subject at hand is not only the withdrawal from nuclear energy. We're talking about our future energy supply on the whole and about peace throughout the world.

Even if we do decide to immediately withdraw from nuclear energy and put an end to an atomic age lasting 80 years, we will still face the issue of nuclear waste disposal for decades to come and the matter of final storage for centuries and millenia. Nucleocracy has not yet offered any feasible and acceptable solutions for these problems. Only in the distant future will we know how much cheap nuclear-generated electricity has really cost, and what bills future generations will have to settle for the energy that we used.



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But, this nuclear policy was decided on in the past, today there is little we can do. We do have, however, a few ways to make amends. We could develop a new, a solar, that is an energy system that uses the radiation of the sun, we could change our mobility, our consumer behavior, the way in which we live and work. We could expand our global perspective to a planetary-solar one. Then we would no longer meet our energy needs with the resources of planet earth, but rather through the radiation of the sun, which is in its own way a „fast breeder“ reactor, but as Hermann Scheer points out, it's at a safety margin of 150 million kilometers.

Fukushima is a symbol of the mistaken policies of the atomic age. We are giving the Black Planet Award to the management of the nuclear power company TEPCO because it put profits before safety and because it must be made responsible for its fraudulent practices and disastrous decisions. At the same time, we know that the management of EON or EDF is not one bit better. The nucleocratic system itself is the real deception and must be put to an end immediately. We already have the means and know-how to make the transition to renewable energy. This transition must take place - against the will of fossocracy's managers - who still hold on to the fossil fuel system despite the Deepwater Horizon disaster and despite the warnings of a climate catastrophe; and against nucleocracy, which will hold on to this monster technology as long as there are profits to be made.

## **Greetings from Kazuhiko Kobayashi<sup>35</sup> (Japan)**

As a citizen of Japan and as a world compatriot I would like to condemn in public as most irresponsible persons all those politicians, civil servants and company executives all of whom have planned, built, operated and still operate nuclear power stations in Japan. Particularly those who bear responsibility for TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company, Inc.), of course.

Even though they knew it very well from the very beginning that there is never such a thing as 100 percent safety they kept playing down the potential nuclear risk which cannot be controlled and claimed that the nuclear power stations are safe. They knew that in Japan which is the country with the most frequent earthquakes in the world there is a likelihood of huge earthquakes and tsunamis any time and anywhere. And that the result would be a major worst case scenario incident. They knew very well that they would never be able to compensate for the incredible damages of such an event.

The Fukushima major worst case scenario incident of 11th March 2011 is a proof that they have cheated Japanese citizens. Now they even try to dodge their own responsibility claiming that this major Fukushima incident was due to the power of nature which was beyond their imagination.

What a swindle!

What a coward inhuman excuse!

Hundreds of thousands of people have already been exposed to dangerous radiation levels. It is particularly children and adolescents who are expected to suffer extreme long-term damages to their health. But even the unborn future generations face a serious risk which will be passed on as a heritage.

A 30, 40 or 50 kilometer radius around the scene of the Fukushima incident or rather an even bigger area will be indefinitely polluted and unfit for human residence. But even in a much bigger region within a distance of 100, 200 or 300 km from the scene of the explosion there may be a high risk to human lives. And still many citizens are forced to live in these areas with the threat of radiation levels.

It is these politicians, it is these corrupt civil servants and it is the executive personnel in charge of TEPCO who bear full immediate responsibility for this.

And still these three groups keep helping each other trying to camouflage all threatening facts and trying to play them down. And they appear to be unscrupulous ready to walk over dead people promot-

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<sup>35</sup> Kazuhiko Kobayashi studied German philology in Japan. After that, he was active as a self-employed consultant for European-Japanese trade for many years. Kobayashi is the author of several books e.g. "A critical view of globalisation and our lives – with a subsequent remark on the 11th March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and major worst case scenario incident in North East Japan". He is an active critic of nuclear power since the March 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster. In October 2011, Kobayashi gave information to the general public about the situation in Japan during a tour throughout Germany which was organized by the Federal Association of Citizen's Initiatives for Environmental Protection.





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ing their interests of power politics and business in order to continue the operation of highly dangerous nuclear power stations in Japan and in order to continue the business of nuclear exports. The recent contract about building two new nuclear reactors in Vietnam is a proof for this. To this end since the Fukushima incident, the incumbent politicians and the relevant ministries have repeatedly slackened the laws for radiation levels in spite of a considerable threat to public health. They did so with full intention and in favour of the nuclear operating companies.

Now they make the taxpayer pay for the most urgent costs which are a result of the catastrophe. As a matter of fact it is TEPCO themselves who ought to pay. TEPCO are given credits on top of everything else so that this company which should be bankrupt a long time ago can carry on and operate their nuclear power stations. But all of the Japanese Government's coffers are not sufficient to cover all the resulting damages.

They are cheating Japanese citizens completely.

Even though the costs of electricity generation from nuclear power stations are the highest by far, especially if you take into consideration the costs of the known risks, the relevant Japanese ministry and TEPCO keep lying to us that electricity prices are supposed to be much higher without nuclear power stations.

It does not matter whether or not those responsible are sentenced by a Japanese court for their gross negligence and for their intentional cover-ups – they are doomed to live on with the eternal punishment of their own guilt.

In that sense, this Black Planet Award for TEPCO is more than appropriate.

## **Greetings from Kazue Suzuki / Greenpeace Japan<sup>36</sup>**

In 1971, a small group of activists set sail from Vancouver in a fishing boat they named Greenpeace. Their destination was Amchitka, a volcanic island in the Aleutian Islands, west of Alaska, where the United States was set to detonate a nuclear bomb. The activists feared the underground explosion, the third such test on the island, would trigger devastating earthquakes and tsunamis.

In 2011, the battle is still going on. Greenpeace Japan's latest campaign is to protect people from the massive release of radiation from the Fukushima nuclear plant after it was crippled by the March 11 earthquakes and tsunami.

Greenpeace Japan was established in 1989, and has worked on protecting ocean ecology, nuclear disarmament, the phase out of nuclear power, toxic pollution, protecting ancient forest and climate change.

As the Fukushima nuclear crisis in Japan entered its second week, Greenpeace conducted radiation monitoring in Fukushima and responded to reports of increased radiation in food from areas surrounding the TEPCO's Fukushima/Daiichi nuclear plant, including three field trips to Fukushima including ocean survey. Since then Greenpeace has called for more effective protection of public health and an immediate and transparent availability of information.

We cannot think of another company more suited than TEPCO to receive the Black Planet award 2011.. As a Greenpeace banner spelled out at TEPCO's Annual General Meeting (AGM) with shareholders this year, "TEPCO is The Worst Ever Polluting Company". Not only for the accident they could have avoided if they had heard citizens' years of warnings on the lack of earthquake resistance, but also for their behavior since the crisis began. I'll give you one example; if TEPCO had pumped in sea water to cool down the reactors sooner, several explosions, which led to massive radiation releases might not have happened. TEPCO waited because the company knew that once they pumped in sea-water, they knew they could no longer use the reactors and would have had to abandon them. Also, the task of building of further reinforcement under the reactor buildings so not to release radioactivity to groundwater is immense. However, TEPCO is calculating how much this would cost and as of yet have not built the structures. If the radioactivity reaches the ground water, it would release radioactivity to larger areas of Japan and would hugely increase public health risks

I urge anyone who reads this to pick up the phone and call TEPCO to say "stop radioactive releases into the atmosphere, ocean and ground water". The number: +81 3-3501-8111.

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<sup>36</sup> Kazue Suzuki works for Greenpeace Japan as Nuclear/Energy campaigner.

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### **Greetings from Hideyuki Ban / CNIC (Japan)<sup>37</sup>**

The Citizen's Nuclear Information Center (CNIC) is a non-profit research institution with the goal of realizing a society that does not rely on nuclear energy. Independent from the nuclear industry CNIC conducts research and gathers information for the use of citizens.

Just like the end of the Pacific War March 11, 2011 will be remembered for a long time as a turning point in Japanese history. A magnitude 9.0 earthquake followed by a tsunami is a natural disaster that happens once every 1000 years and has happened many times before.

However, a nuclear disaster of the highest level 7 on the international scale is a first in Japanese history and can bring about the "sinking" of the country. At this point half a year has passed and the leaking of radioactivity has not been stopped. The accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant can thus still not come to a close.

The radiation has clearly spread beyond the 30 km zone around the Fukushima nuclear plant. Up to 70 km distance there has been detected radioactive strontium and the sale of vegetables within 100 km distance has been stopped. In a wide area the soil has been polluted with radioactive cesium, this pollution will not go away for a long period. These are the dimensions of a nuclear disaster.

Because of this accident millions of people will be exposed to over the limit of 1 millisievert of radiation this year. The levels of radiation workers that are cleaning up the plant are exposed to is serious. Up to now over 16000 workers have been exposed. And the number of exposed workers increases while the accident does not come to a close.

Moreover starting with Japan's main food rice there are fears about food security. With the increase of exposure to radiation fears about health risks also increase.

In 2008 TEPCO grasped the possibility of a heavy earthquake and following tsunami. However they continued to operate without taking any counter measures. One year later it was pointed out by a geologist that a heavy earthquake and tsunami 1150 years earlier should be taken into mind, This indication was not considered and operations were continued. Having failed to take action twice makes that this disaster is not natural but man-made by TEPCO.

Even though TEPCO has caused an unprecedented amount of exposure to radiation to the people, they do not seem to take responsibility. Where a normal company would go bankrupt, a company that used to be a public utility is preserved. Reportedly Masataka Shimizu, ex-representative executive of TEPCO received over US\$ 6 million in retirement allowances. Furthermore, the compensation for directors and the extremely high pay of corporate members and bonuses are left untouched while the price of electricity for ordinary consumers goes up to pay for the compensation of victims. This compensation is despite of all the hardships endured by the victims not sufficient.

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<sup>37</sup> Hideyuki Ban is co-director of the non-profit research institution Citizen's Nuclear Information Center (CNIC), cf. <http://www.cnic.jp/english/>.



With the nuclear experiences in Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan has for the past 65 years taken a stance as a country that was the victim of nuclear (bombs). However this changed after March the 11th when TEPCO did not only release radioactive substances in the air but also large quantities in the ocean. The total amount has been calculated as to be over 57 quadrillion Becquerels. The radiation has spread all over the world and Japan is being criticized for it all over the world. Japan is no longer a victim but the cause of nuclear pollution.

We therefore thank the ethecon Foundation for selecting TEPCO. The "Black Planet Award" is a prize that suites TEPCO well. We hope that this prize will be a trigger for TEPCO to make the crisis come to a close sooner and step away from nuclear energy and its devastating effects on the future. We also hope that this prize will bring people together to hand in hand build a society that does not depend on nuclear energy.



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### **Greetings from Rikiya Adachi / Greens Japan<sup>38</sup>**

My name is Rikiya Adachi, Spokesperson of the International Bureau of Greens Japan (Midorino Mirai in Japanese). Greens Japan is a political organization which has some 500 members including more than 60 municipal councilors. Also it is a member of Global Greens, a federation of Green Parties all over the world. One of our biggest aims is to construct a greener world in a political way.

The incident of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant gave us many lessons which we should have learned from Chernobyl. We cannot handle nuclear power safely in anyway. It is never “green” as some people - like Japanese government especially before 3.11 – used to say. Once we had an accident, we cannot compensate for it. Even if the nuclear power plants are operated “under control”, they are always emitting radioactive materials which is critical for us. TEPCO definitely deserves the BLACK PLANET AWARD, since it has made these things clearer than ever. It is very ironical, since Japan is the only country that is victimized by nuclear bombings in 1945 – the first case ever in human history. Japan should have known the tragedy of radioactive disasters better than any other countries.

TEPCO claimed that the accident was triggered by the unprecedented mega-quake and mega-tsunami which were beyond the assumption. However the seismologist who researched the record of the ancient mega-quake and mega-tsunami in adjacent area of Fukushima Daiichi pointed out the necessity of countermeasures in the governmental commission in 2009. TEPCO did not take any effective measures. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission warned about possible failures of Mark 1 containments, which were employed in Fukushima Daiichi, twenty years ago, but TEPCO has also ignored it. TEPCO has ignored many important warnings and postponed safety to economical profit.

Nuclear power plants destroy not only the natural environment and human health, but also our society. Geographically and socially marginalized people are the first ones who are affected. TEPCO hides correct information about the emission of the radioactive materials. Nuclear development is necessarily accompanied with military matters, which would not disclose information. Lack of information disturbs our democratic decisions. Many people don't know how contaminated the land they live is. A lot of people are forced to eat contaminated food. Many workers in the nuclear power plants are from lower income class, while many shareholders of TEPCO are enjoying their lives on a throne in a safer place. That is why we should be against the nuclear development not only scientifically but also politically.

The soil and the sea around Fukushima Daiichi are severely contaminated. People who live within 20 km radii from there had to evacuate. The evacuation zone was enlarged to as far as 50 km. Vegetables, meats, fish and milk were abandoned. Contaminating not only Japan but also all over the world., there is no doubt that TEPCO is the most responsible for this nightmare.

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<sup>38</sup> Rikiya Adachi is spokesperson of the International Bureau of Greens Japan, the Japanese Green Party; c.f. <http://www.greens.gr.jp/>.



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The accident is still going on and we cannot foresee the way out. I wish TEPCO will not become the first one that receives the BLACK PLANET AWARD for two consecutive years.



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### **Greetings from Yoko Akimoto / Attac Japan<sup>39</sup>**

Congratulation, TEPCO! At last, you have won the prize! We are sincerely thankful you have notified more and more Japanese that TEPCO is this mess. Nobody trusts TEPCO any more. Now you, TEPCO, which was a fantastic company before March 11, are diffusing your inherent shame all over the world together with radiation. It is really saving us. Thanks again!

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<sup>39</sup> Yoko Akimoto works in the secretariat of Attac Japan.

## **Greetings from Sylvia Kotting-Uhl, MP / Green Party Germany<sup>40</sup>**

TEPCO well deserves this year's discommendation award. TEPCO's moral thoughtlessness and lack of responsibility led to the worst industrial nuclear catastrophe yet experienced. The roots are to be found in the decision to even build atomic power plants in a country riddled by earthquakes - albeit TEPCO certainly does not stand alone in that decision. Whether or not the 12th of March tsunami was the sole cause of the collapse of the Fukushima and Daichi nuclear power plants or if a better technology could possibly have prohibited the disastrous calamity we will probably never know.

TEPCO's executive managers added arrogance to moral liability: during the first days following the initial disasters they played down the importance and the implications of the incurred problems in order to suggest to the world that they had everything under control. They thus deterred decisions to evacuate. Whether or not this can be attributed to lack of knowledge, incompetence or conscious misleading doesn't really matter any more – one would certainly expect any company running 10 reactor plants - Fukushima I and II – and thus with the inherent responsibility for the safety of millions of people and the environment - to be in possession of state of the art scientific knowledge and technology and capable of working competently and with transparency.

I visited the prefect of Fukushima with a Japanese group in May of this year. The people still living there have, because of TEPCO, lost everything they had: their homes, their work and their social environment. Their impressions were that TEPCO plainly just didn't really care. "You can't expect anything from TEPCO" is how the mayor of one recently evacuated township phrased it.

The energy corporations in Japan are very powerful and use this power ruthlessly. For a large part the media companies belong to them; TEPCO has a strong influence on national politics and the government. As a corporation „to big to fail“TEPCO relies on the Japanese government to bail them out. The Japanese government in turn allows itself to be blackmailed by Tepco's presumption that Greater Tokyo would be left without electricity if TEPCO were allowed to go broke.

In the past Tepco made itself billions and a name by manipulating electricity prices. Now the Japanese government has pumped an estimated 4,54 Trillion Yen ( 45 Billion Euros) into TEPCO to prevent the corporation from going broke. Now they are cashing in on 9 Trillion Yen (9,9 Billion Euros) worth of state compensation measures in order to tear down the derelict power plants. These sums will however definitely not be enough and certainly don't reflect the deep incision into the lives and health of both mankind and environment. The principle of private profits but subsidized losses seems to pose TEPCO no problems.

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<sup>40</sup> Sylvia Kotting-Uhl is a Member of Parliament in the German Bundestag and nuclear power speaker of the Green Party „Bündnis 90/Die Grünen“.





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And to top it all off - TEPCO seems not to want to learn from the catastrophe of Fukushima. The corporation is serious considering to rekindling their third atomic powerplant. But this nuclear plant, Kashiwazaki-kariwa was already damaged in a 2007 earthquake - it would be for the Japanese government to take severe consequences. TEPCO seems to have no other interest than that of business profits. TEPCO has indeed earned the discommendation award.

But I would like to add the following: TEPCO is as a corporation not alone when insinuating - even against all experience - that nuclear power is controllable. TEPCO does not stand out when transferring these risks and losses to society. It is such I feel that TEPCO is awarded the Black Planet Award in exemplification for all other nuclear power corporations in the world.

## **Greetings from Wolfgang Ehmke / BI Lüchow-Dannenberg (Germany)<sup>41</sup>**

Nuclear opponents from all around the world are astonished. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) praised the efforts of the Japanese Government and the nuclear power plant operator 'TEPCO' for its "unprecedented crisis management" during the Fukushima disaster.

At the end of May a commission of 18 members known as 'nuclear protectors' travelled for ten days throughout the contaminated area surrounding the damaged power plant. Their subsequent report conceals deficiencies in the handling of the disaster and reflects a benevolent attitude toward the plant's operator TEPCO, the Japanese Government and the national nuclear regulatory agency.

The report of the IAEA forms a strong contrast to what was reported to the public for weeks about the so-called crisis management - their hesitancy, their cover-up attempts and the humanitarian catastrophe not only of the liquidators - all that stands in flagrant contradiction to the IAEA report. But let us not talk about these atomic-apologists now. TEPCO's deficiencies uncovered in this disaster were not one-time blunders. Their crisis management has (had) a system behind it.

In 2002 an engineer of the U.S. Company 'General Electric' - three out of six reactors were built by General Electric - set the ball rolling. He informed the Japanese regulatory agency of the fact that no inspections had been carried out in 13 Tepco reactors and that in 29 cases data falsification and/or cover-ups were common practice. This report led to the resignation of TEPCO's leading managers. Hiroshi Araki (CEO) and four top-managers had to leave TEPCO.

His replacement, Tsunehisa Katsumata, announced a new corporate culture. Core points were a code of ethics and openness in communication. Katsumata said, "We must admit that we had no clear rules to judge whether equipment was fit for service. It was stated nowhere that equipment and machinery after a certain period of time could be worn out or even fail". Elsewhere he stated in his Speech: "Nuclear Division members tended to regard a stable supply of electricity as the ultimate objective ... The engineers were so confident of their knowledge of nuclear power that they came to believe that they would not have to report problems to the national government."

Despite Katsumata's efforts, obviously nothing changed. In 2007 eight people died in the TEPCO Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant during an earthquake. Pipes burst, a fire broke out. The plant was shut down for a whole year and had to be decontaminated. As it turned out, the earthquake safety system - supposedly up to code - was in fact defective and had to be improved. 117 inspections had simply not been carried out. According to an article in the "Spiegel" from March 22, 2011, shortly before the nuclear disaster in the Fukushima-Daiichi power plant on March 2, 2011, the atomic energy control authorities had reproached Tepco for inadequate maintenance: a total of 33 parts, including integral ele-

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<sup>41</sup> Wolfgang Ehmke is board member of the anti-nuclear action group „Bürgerinitiative Lüchow-Dannenberg“ (“Citizens’ Initiative Lüchow-Dannenberg”), cf. <http://www.bi-luechow-dannenberg.de>.



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ments of the cooling systems of the six reactors and the cooling ponds had not been inspected as required by regulations.

A further charge against TEPCO persistently appears: On the morning of March 12, 2011 the company could have already started to cool down the nuclear fuel elements and thus prevent the nuclear meltdown (that happened a few hours later) by using sea water mixed with boric acid. However, this idea was rejected for financial reasons, as the salt water would have ruined the equipment, thereby making it unsuitable for further use. Even at the height of a major catastrophe, TEPCO was thinking primarily of one thing: profit.

Not mentioned in the IAEA report: the radiation exposure was played down. The workers didn't have a sufficient number of radiation meters at their disposal, even food was in short supply. It is hard to believe that the hastily drummed up liquidators had to share beds and blankets for weeks.

TEPCO and the IAEA have gambled away all credibility.

## **Greetings from Christina Hacker / Umweltinstitut München (Germany)<sup>42</sup>**

This year's price of the ethecon Foundation - Ethics & Economics, the International Black Planet Award, goes to the Tokyo Electric Power Company, TEPCO. The price is well-deserved and long time due. The Japanese Electric Power Company gave proof of not being in the position to lead nuclear power plants in a faithful way, at the latest with its disastrous crisis-management at the multiple nuclear meltdown in Fukushima. The power company has long been famous for its unspeakable sloppiness, frauds and cover-ups. Since the mid-80ies TEPCO faked documents and covered up events of fault. That was released in 2002. A change of the board of directors following on this event couldn't find a remedy though: sloppiness in inspections and overhauls continued and several emergency shutdowns with critical reactions stayed furthermore secret. It was pure luck that the catastrophe didn't happen earlier.

Fukushima brought us a dramatic déjà vu. The „Umweltinstitut München e.V.“ („Environmental Institute Munich“), which was founded as direct reaction to the Chernobyl catastrophe, was immediately on alert. Our telephone lines ran hot and many people were reminded of the chaotic information politics of that time. The confidence in official measured data or benchmarks and commendations is still very little and – as in the past - people turn to independent institutions.

After the Chernobyl catastrophe we had the advantage that an active anti-nuclear movement was born out of a peace movement. Also critical scientists who worked in the atom industry changed allegiance due to unforeseeable risks of atom techniques. Such conditions were entirely missing in Japan. It's a mystery to us that a land which experienced two atomic bomb releases and still suffers the aftermath, is dealing in such an unconcerned way with nuclear power. In addition, since earthquakes and tsunamis are not a curiosity in Japan.

It is therefore all the more pleasant that the Japanese are taking the law into their own hands. In the past months we welcomed interested Japanese citizens several times. They asked us about our work after Chernobyl. What interested them most were our possibilities to measure radioactivity with a gamma ray spectrometer and our continuous surrounding air observation. The most frequently asked questions from Japan are:

Which actions can I take as an individual for me and my kids?

How can I protect myself from radiation?

Can I trust the official evaluations?

What can I still eat?

How can I measure and evaluate by myself?

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<sup>42</sup> Christina Hacker is board member of the „Umweltinstitut München e.V.“ („Environmental Institute Munich“) and in charge of the radioactivity section, cf. <http://www.umweltinstitut.org>.



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They are taking our answers and suggestions gratefully home. We get bottom samples, which we test for radioactivity because there are still only few independent gamma spectrometer measurements in Japan. Moreover, we will soon be able to measure alpha and beta rays as well as plutonium and strontium. The new instrument of measure is already purchased. We will gladly continue to offer our help and keep in touch with our Japanese friends.

Meanwhile, there exist few organizations in Japan which are at the moment establishing an independent measuring network. We hope that this will help to allocate reliable information. Furthermore, we hope that they can setup a strong counterbalance to the still atom-friendly politics and economy in Japan. There's no future for nuclear power in Japan, the energy turnaround has to go on in an accelerated way. First and foremost, we hope that the irresponsible elevation of the yearly boundary value for children will be revoked. The evacuation zone must be enlarged – its the children who must receive superior protection.

Basically, a negative price is not at all adequate, TEPCO should have been shown the „red card“. We wish our Japanese friends that the new government will take drastic action and will withdraw TEPCO's license to operate a nuclear power plant.



### **Greetings from David Weisman / Alliance For Nuclear Responsibility (USA)<sup>43</sup>**

Greetings from the Alliance For Nuclear Responsibility, a statewide, California non-profit consumer energy watchdog advocate. Your decision to award the Black Planet award to TEPCO for their negligence and arrogance regarding the ongoing nuclear disaster at the Fukushima complex resonates with our work in the United States. Our mission is to prevent the relicensing of California's two aging nuclear reactors, located on our seismically active and fragile coastline. Since we have little faith in the failed track record of the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to safeguard the public, we take action at the state level, where we have jurisdiction over the economics and reliability of nuclear power. As such, we work with our California Energy Commission, California Public Utilities Commission and state legislators. Since 2006, we have supported and worked with these agencies and officials to point out the many unknown seismic uncertainties beneath our coastal reactors. The Diablo Canyon nuclear reactor has the most troubled seismic history of any U.S. reactor. If they are relicensed for an additional 20 years of operation (from 2025 to 2045) how can we be assured of economical and reliable power? Those are our questions.

In the 1960s, the utility, Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), claimed there were no known faults in the vicinity, and the NRC agreed. When the plant was 90 percent completed, a fault was discovered 2.5 miles offshore. This required over \$4 billion in retrofits - and these costs were passed along to consumers - even though investigations demonstrated seismic negligence on the part of the utility and collusion by the NRC. We are bringing this history forward again, as troubling seismic information (including discovery of a new fault only 600 meters from the plant) is emerging. The NRC does not believe that updating seismic studies is required when permitting the relicensing of a reactor complex with a troubled seismic history. We met personally with the chairman of the NRC in March, 2010, and they refused to suspend the relicensing process until our state utilized the latest 3-dimensional computer modeling technology to understand the on and offshore seismic hazards.

It was with great sadness that, only a year after our meeting at the NRC, we watched the tragic events unfold at the Fukushima nuclear complex in Japan. It is regrettable that it took a tragedy of such magnitude for our elected officials to take notice of the potential consequences we had been warning them about for years. However, as we had laid the groundwork during those years, our message and our information were finally welcomed. And, while the legislatures and state agencies were receptive, the NRC and the nuclear utilities remained intransigent. They immediately began a media campaign based on the slogan "What happened in Japan can't happen here." They asserted that Diablo Canyon nuclear plant is 85 feet above sea level, and out of reach of tsunamis. They asserted that California's

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<sup>43</sup> David Weisman is Outreach Coordinator of the Alliance For Nuclear Responsibility. It works to educate and protect the citizens of the State of California and future generations from the dangers of radioactive contamination. It supports educating the public on options for energy generation, the dangers of aging nuclear plants and the increasing production and storage of high-level radioactive waste on California's coastal zone; cf. <http://a4nr.org/>.



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reactors are not on a subduction zone, and we can never experience a magnitude 9.0 earthquake. They assure us that within 90 days, they will issue a report on “lessons learned” from Fukushima.

They will, in fact, have learned nothing. Their data reports, their magnitude calculations, their ground motion estimates, their slip rate computations - these will all be meaningless. The greatest lesson to be learned requires not science, but psychology: the lesson is that they failed to imagine the unimaginable and failing to imagine it, they were unable to plan for the potential consequences.

TEPCO, not unlike our utilities, and the Japanese nuclear safety regulators, not unlike our own NRC, demonstrate a hubris that borders on criminal conduct. Their immediate technical and procedural rationalizations seek to assure us that our reactors can withstand Mother Nature’s greatest threats. What happens when the actual event is orders of magnitude greater than the estimate? Documents now reveal that TEPCO had a long and disturbing history of suppressing seismic information. They were aware of many earthquake threats and failed to investigate others. PG&E and the NRC are leading California down the same shaky road. Beyond the human suffering, the refugees, the scarred land and sea, there is also the enormous financial impact of the Fukushima disasters. While it may seem callous to reduce the horror to dollar and cents, sometimes that is as effective a tool as any for gaining attention. With estimates that start at \$23 billion and climb towards \$100 billion, the fallout from Fukushima could dwarf any previous man-made catastrophe. Here in the USA, federal liability for a nuclear disaster is capped at \$12.6 billion. How could we even afford to clean up and make whole again the victims of such a disaster?

The suffering and loss in Japan need not be in vain. Citizens must pressure those in power to ask the very difficult questions - *the unimaginable questions* - so that we can arrive at informed and prudent decisions regarding our energy generation sources. When it comes to geological forces, it is not a matter of “if,” but “when.” As Californians, we live with that risk daily. The residents near Fukushima went to bed the night before the disaster believing that TEPCO had taken all the necessary actions to safeguard their wellbeing. TEPCO had not. The regulators had not. We must do the work. And like those geological forces, it is not a matter of “if,” but “when.”

That time is now.

## **Grief and Anger<sup>44</sup>**

### **Capitalistic Barbarism Reaches New Quality**

Even weeks after the human catastrophe in Japan the facts are hidden from the (world) public: How many localities are affected by the devastating earthquake, the Tsunami and the hundreds of after-shocks of the past few days, and in which way? What is really going on in the Japanese nuclear power plants, in fact in all ones? What about the radioactive hazard? What about the remaining industrial hazards, the dangerous chemical productions and others? What are the consequences of burst gas lines and chemical tanks? What are the consequences of the minimal, but occurred displacement of the Earth's axis for this planet? And in the centre of all questions: How many people are affected? How many dead, how many injured, how many contaminated are there in fact? Which radiation risks exist for the people in Japan, the neighbouring countries, the whole world? What does the atomic catastrophe mean for the ecology of the country, the seas and the planet?

On maps in the internet (i.e. escri.com) the area which is affected "very strong" by the about 300 earth quakes, ranges from south of Tokyo to far into the north and consist dozens of localities with many millions of residents. Tokyo itself, the 35-million- metropolis, is not included though, but is also located in the area "strong" affected, which outreaches the area "very strong" affected far.

In the catastrophe advices mainly Fukushima's nuclear disaster reactors can be found. Occasionally the power plants Onogawa and Tokai were popping up, but only to sink right away into the dark of silence. Thereby, Tokai is located only 120 km northwest of Tokyo. Hardly a word is found in the news about the other dangerous production plants and storage facilities.

In a real barbarian way one thing becomes clear: The principal object of communication and action is not to save lives, to protect mankind from hazard or the ecology of our planet; no, the principal object is to assure profits. Under the pretence of causing no panic, the persons responsible not only lie and withhold information, but furthermore trivialise it. Even WHO and UNO are joining, pretending to avoid panic. Small mistakes like the, immediately berated, comments of US president Obama about the lack of dimension of the evacuation zone, or of EU energy commissioner Oettinger about the rating of the nuclear disaster as a super disaster do not change anything to the syndicate of lies.

The most devastating is the information policy for Japanese population. People in Japan, who are considering the catastrophe not going to work and are seeking salvation on the run, are being denounced. According to "Liveticker Japan" (SPIEGEL online) even foreigners employed in Japanese companies, who escape with their families southward or out of the country, receive e-mails by the corporate managements, denouncing them as "betrayers". Production and stock exchange in Japan are kept

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<sup>44</sup> This comment was first published at the end of March 2011.





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up even when foreign enterprises shut down their plants long ago, being worried about their Japanese employees.

The inhuman character of the information policy becomes clear, when Katsunobu Sakurai, mayor of the city 20 km north of Fukushima with 70.000 residents, is asserting in a BBC interview on March 18, 2011 "that they left us here to die". The disregard of any ecology is displayed by saying "no hazard, the radioactive cloud will go down in the pacific".

And what about TEPCO, the enterprise which is responsible for the nuclear disaster? It sacrifices "heroes" in the nuclear plants to avoid the worst of the worst in the radiation inferno; and takes a stranglehold over politics so that corporate balance sheets sustain the smallest damage.

The cynicism of asset's and politics' alliance, the capitalistic barbarism has reached a new quality. What we experience presently, will hit us tomorrow too – no matter at whichever occasion. In this situation of grief and anger there is only one thing: Step onto the streets! Get out of nuclear energy! Out of capitalism!

Axel Köhler-Schnura

Founder and member of the board of ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics

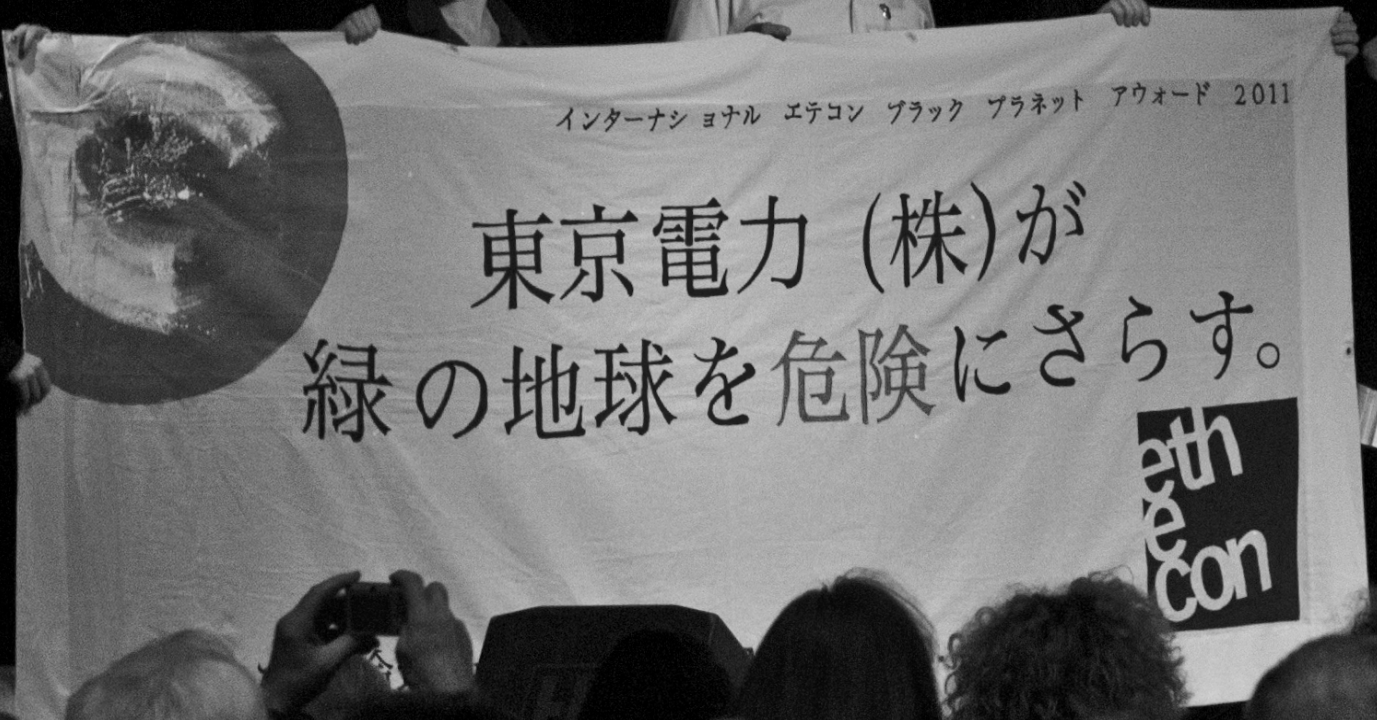
Founding member of the german anti-nuclear movement with Petra Kelly in the federal association action group environment protection



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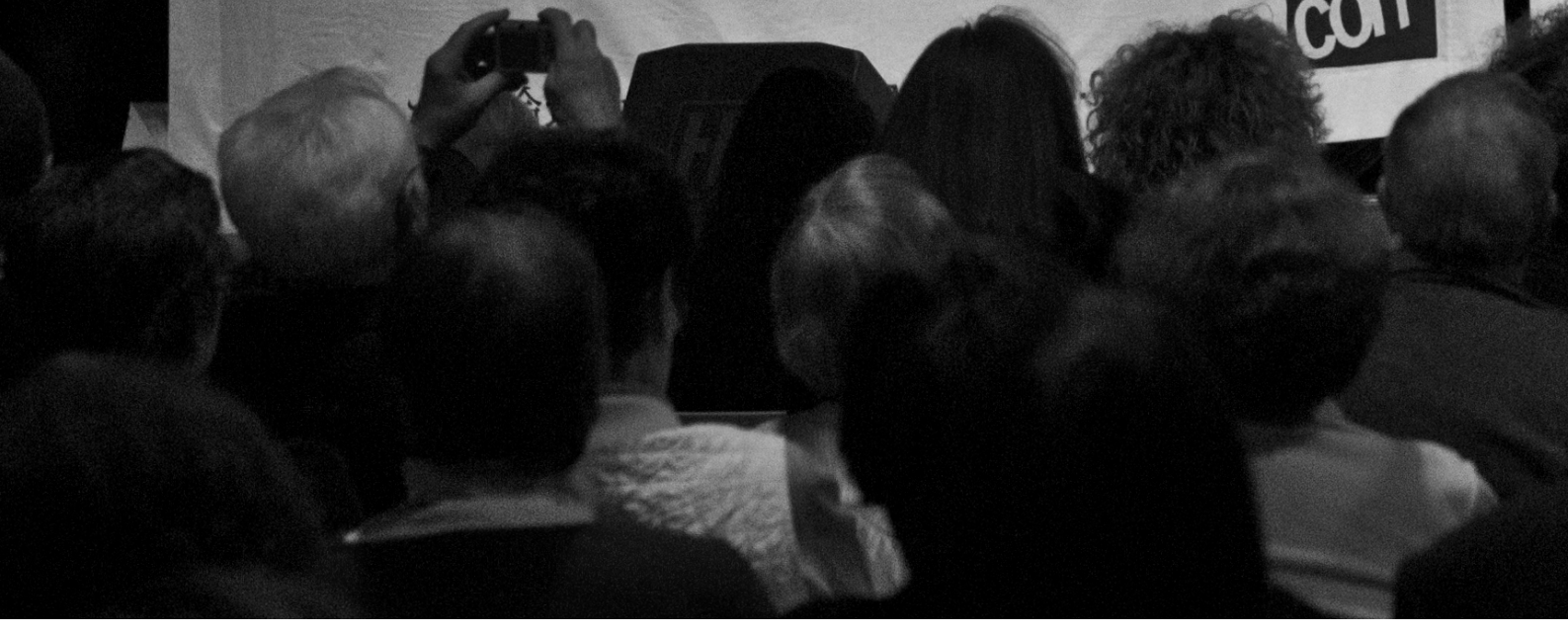
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## **The international ethecon awards**

The two International ethecon Awards have been presented annually since 2006. The award winners were/are:

### **Hall of Fame**

#### **Internationaler ethecon Blue Planet Award**

##### **2006**

Diane Wilson / environmental and peace activist / USA

##### **2007**

Vandana Shiva / peace and environmental activist / India

##### **2008**

José Abreu / engineer / Venezuela and Hugo Chavez / revolutionary / Venezuela – under the name of "El Sistema" they set up a worldwide unique and widely publicized program against poverty, drugs, social negligence and crime that guarantees every child in Venezuela the right to learn to play a musical instrument

##### **2009**

Uri Avnery / peace and human rights activist / Israel

##### **2010**

Elias Bierdel / refugee- and human rights activist / Austria

##### **2011**

Angela Davis / civil and human rights activist / USA

### **Hall of Shame**

#### **Internationaler ethecon Black Planet Award**

##### **2006**

Shareholders and the management of the MONSANTO company / agricultural technology (genetic engineering, pesticides, chemical warfare agents) / USA

##### **2007**

Peter Brabeck-Letmathe (CEO) and other responsible managers and Liliane de Bettencourt and other shareholders of the Nestlé company / food industry (genetic engineering, privatization of water) / Switzerland

##### **2008**

Erik Prince and the managers of the Blackwater company (for publicity reasons renamed to Xe Services LLC) / service provider for the military (Killer Company) / USA



**2009**

Owner family Wang and the management of Formosa Plastics Group / chemistry /  
genetic engineering / Taiwan

**2010**

Tony Hayward, Bob Dudley, Carl-Henric Svanberg and other accountable executives  
and major shareholders of the oil- and energy company BP / Great Britain

**2011**

Tsunehisa Katsumata (chairman), Masataka Shimizu (former president), Toshio Nishizawa (president)  
and other accountable executives and major shareholders of the energy company TEPCO (Tokyo  
Electric Power Company) / Japan



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## **The ethecon Foundation**

Our blue planet is in serious danger. This is no longer denied, not even by politics and science.

But the underlying cause continues to be ignored: the greed for profit connected with the worldwide dominant economic system.

This profit-based system is responsible for injustice, exploitation and ecological destruction. The lust for profit is becoming more and more the sole motivational force in our society and in our management of the environment. The devastating consequences of this development may no longer be overlooked: massive unemployment, the breakdown of the health-, education- and social security systems, destitution, poverty and homelessness, egoism, crime and ruthlessness, weapons production and war, climate change and the collapse of ecological systems.

A different world, a just world, may only be achieved through the development and the implementation of ecologically-sound and humane economic and social models not based on profit maximization. To reach this goal, we must start at the roots, that is, within the competing interests of ethics and economics. We must stand up against those who profit from the globalization process and social decay. For the good of ecology and society, the primacy of ethical principles over economics must be asserted. The rescue of our planet will only be possible when the supremacy of the profit principle is replaced by an economic system based on ethical principles.

The transformation of our society in the direction of a just and fair social system with an intact environment and the overcoming of the profit principle cannot be achieved overnight. This requires perseverance and endurance. In order to achieve this necessary change, broad social movements must be established and fragmented forces united. However, good ideas and voluntary commitment alone are not enough. They must be backed by sufficient financial means.

This is where "ethecon - Foundation Ethics & Economics" comes in. Whereas other groups and organizations – in a historical context – are active for a short time only, ethecon follows the insight, that successful work for the implementation of ethical principles in the interest of ecology and society must be designed to operate on a long-term basis, continuing past the current generation. The legal form as a foundation was deliberately chosen in order to ensure the necessary on-going financial basis for the securing and defence of the principle of solidarity as opposed to the principle of profit.

In order to bequeath future generations with a strong foundation, ethecon needs further endowment contributions, donations and sustaining members. Founded in 2004, the foundation was able to increase its initial capital of 85,000 Euros fourfold through the aid of subsequent endowment contributions (the latest figures may be found in the foundation's brochure "For a World without Exploitation and Oppression" or on <http://www.ethecon.org>).



ethecon seeks people who, in light of the current devastating ecological and social developments, wish to use their financial resources in a responsible way. Many people want not only to talk about a just world, but to find ways to realize it, always with the goal of a sound environment, peace and humane working conditions for coming generations.

Here is where you can help. If you agree that the prevailing profit-defined conditions must be opposed on a long-range basis, beyond the current generation, then please support "ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics". If an endowment contribution (from 5,000 euros) is not possible, your donation or, even better, your sustaining membership (from 60 euros per year) would be greatly appreciated. It is now possible to make an endowment contribution over a longer period of time, with monthly payments starting at 20 euros. All contributions are tax-deductible (national laws may differ on this point). In Germany, the tax-exemption limit is much higher than for regular donations and also more advantageous than for donations to political parties.

Please act now! ethecon needs you, as an endowment contributor, donor or sustaining member. You may reach "ethecon – Foundation Ethics & Economics" on the internet at <http://www.ethecon.org> or here:

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