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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:

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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 northeastern 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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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. Ususally 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. As a result, TEPCO is one of the main taboos in the Japanese media.

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 antinuclear stance so far.

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.

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

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 distruction 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.

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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.

Yours sincerely,

Axel Köhler-Schnura
(Chairperson, Board of Directors)

Elke von der Beeck
(Chairperson, Board of Trustees)