
In parallel with the 17th session of the Human Rights Council

NGO side event organized by

International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)
International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace (IOHRP)
Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL)
International Association of Peace Messenger Cities (IAPMC)
Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association (JALISA)

An Invitation to NGOs, NGO Committees and Member States

The Effects of Nuclear Energy on Environment and the Human Right to Peace

**Thursday, 9th June, 2011
15:00-17:00, Room XXII
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

Panelists include

Mr. Yorio Shiokawa (IADL)
Realities of the Fukushima No.1 Nuclear Power Plant's Accident

Mr. Jun Sasamoto (Secretary General of JALISA)
Nuclear Power Plants and the Human Right to Peace

Mrs. Vita de Waal
**Chairperson of NGO Forum on Environment and
Representative of the Planetary Association for Clean Energy**
Nuclear Power , the Environment and the Human Right to Peace

Dr. Manjit Dosanjh
Researcher at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, CERN
The Challenges of the Use of Nuclear Energy for the Survival of Humankind

Moderator
Mr. David Fernandez Puyana (SSIHRL/IOHRP and IAPMC)

Screening of the video "Japan's nuclear reactor safety system foiled" (NNK World)

Introduction

Nuclear power is the use of sustained nuclear fission to generate heat and do useful work. Nuclear Electric Plants, Nuclear Ships and Submarines use controlled nuclear energy to heat water and produce steam, while in space, nuclear energy decays naturally in a radioisotope thermoelectric generator. Scientists are experimenting with fusion energy for future generation, but these experiments do not currently generate useful energy.

Nuclear power is controversial and there is an ongoing debate about the use of nuclear energy. Proponents, such as the World Nuclear Association and IAEA, contend that nuclear power is a sustainable energy source that reduces carbon emissions. Opponents, such as Greenpeace International and NIRS, believe that nuclear power poses many threats to people and the environment.

Some serious nuclear and radiation accidents have occurred. Nuclear power plant accidents include the Chernobyl disaster (1986), Fukushima I nuclear accidents (2011), and the three Mile Island accident (1979). Nuclear-powered submarine mishaps include the K-19 reactor accident (1961), the K-27 reactor accident (1968), and the K-431 reactor accident (1985). International research is continuing into safety improvements such as passively safe plants, and the possible future use of nuclear fusion.

The paragraph 12 of the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace has showed its concerned about the constant and progressive degradation of the environment and about the need and obligation to ensure to present and future generations a life in peace and in harmony with nature, ensuring their right to human security and the right to live in a safe and healthy environment.

In accordance with the progress report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the right of peoples to peace (A/HRC/17/39 of 28 March 2011) to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its seventeenth session (June 2011), the environment is a crucial aspect of the right to peace. The report proposes the protection of environment as a legal standard to be included in the future declaration on the right to peace in the following terms:

“All peoples and individuals have the right to live in an environment that is safe and healthy, including an atmosphere that is free from dangerous man-made interference, and to be protected against any act or threat of physical or psychological violence, whether originating from State or non-State actors”

All Presentations will be in English language

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