

The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Noble Truths of Buddhist Energy Activism

AFTER

FUKUSHIMA



Bearing Witness & Exposing Unsustainable Energy Systems







Rev. Naito (Lutheran) Rev.  
Tanaka (Soto Zen) Rev.  
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Rev. Okochi (Jodo)

the Interfaith Forum for the Review of National Nuclear Policy formed in 1992



Rev. Tetsuen  
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(Shingon)



Rev. Hiroaki  
Osada (Jodo  
Shin Otani)

# Cultural Dukkha:

In Japan, two well-known myths were created about nuclear energy and nuclear power plants:

1) the myth of need: Japan has few natural resources for energy (fossil fuel)? Is peak load electricity needed all year long?

2) the myth of safety: *Nuclear Ginza* details the harm to power plant workers. Studies in Germany and the U.S. show high rates of cancer, especially in children, for those who live near reactors.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Myth: Nuclear energy helps to prevent global warming

- The production of nuclear fuel wastes vast amounts of energy from mining uranium to transporting the fuel to production to keep the reactor core cool
- 70% of the thermal energy is lost into the environment, usually into the sea at a temperature 17c degrees higher than normal
- There is tremendous economic inefficiency and electrical waste in Japan's delivery of energy from huge nuclear power plants

# Structural Dukkha:

## The Nuclear Village 原発村

- 1) **Bureaucrats**, especially from METI, who after the common practice of early retirement are “golden-parachuted” (天下り *amakudari*) into high-ranking positions in Japan’s nine major regional electric utilities, such as TEPCO.
- 2) **Politicians**, primarily from the LDP, have received huge political contributions in a variety of evasive ways from the nine major regional electric utilities.
- 3) **Corporate interests**, such as: the **regional electric companies**; **industrial giants** like Hitachi, Toshiba, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries that have developed nuclear technology and **construction businesses & national banks** that finance the industry
- 4) **Judicial system and higher courts** that often overturn decisions made by local and district courts in favor of citizens groups opposing nuclear energy.
- 5) **Academics, scientific experts, and media** that have received financial subsidies, donations, or advertising money for their research and promotion of nuclear energy.

# Deep Historical Dukkha

- regional electric companies are vestiges of the war era.
- the mass mobilization that began in 1939, they were consolidated and operated as virtual monopolies until deregulation began in the late 2000s.
- Under the U.S. campaign “Atoms for Peace”, the *Yomiuri* newspaper launched at the beginning of 1954 an ongoing and enthusiastic pro-nuclear campaign with the headline, “Finally, The Sun Has Been Captured”
- The results of this campaign were overwhelming: In 1956, 70 percent of Japanese opposed nuclear technology and considered it harmful. By 1958 only 30 percent thought similarly.
- Igarashi Akio, Professor Emeritus at Rikkyo University, has concluded, “The structure underpinning nuclear power is at the nucleus of Japanese politics. *Japanese democracy and freedom are constantly confronted by these limitations*”.
- Renowned seismologist Ishibashi Katsuhiko 石橋克彦: “In Japan, where popular will has never been included in policy-making, the government continues to promote nuclear power plants ... The situation of societal closure concerning nuclear power seems to resemble the first decade of the Showa era (1925–1935).”





Abolish All Nuclear Reactors

総ての

原発

廃絶

を

!











Longing for the Pure Land;  
No Nukes, No Arms;  
Taking Refuge in Amida Buddha







南無妙法蓮華經

南無多宝如来

南无如来

南无如来

南无如来

特別撰製  
宮本卯之助

平成23年度「永平寺禅を学ぶ会」特別講座

平成23年度「永平寺碑を学ぶ会」報告書

いのちを慈しむ - 原発を避けないという生き方 -

晴東隱

御書

東京は世界最大の都市

新加坡南洋兄弟烟草公司

一、本報自創刊以來，承蒙各界愛護，不勝感荷。茲為擴大宣傳，特在各地設立分報處，以便讀者訂閱。凡欲訂閱者，請向當地分報處接洽。此佈。

中島作樂

非慶而為

長壽縣志

中國歷史



The Manjushri Bodhisattva (文殊菩薩 Monju Bosatsu) Fast Breeder Reactor, Fukui. Commissioned in 1995 and as of 2014, had cost ¥1 trillion (\$9.8 billion), closed in 2016



# Anti-Nuclear Statement by the Traditional Japanese Buddhist Community

- On December 1<sup>st</sup>, the Japan Buddhist Federation (JBF)—an association of 104 traditional sects and denominations from all over the country—assembled its representatives and made a joint reflection on the issue called “Appeal for a Lifestyle without Dependence on Nuclear Power”, reflecting on Hiroshima & Nagasaki and the aim of world peace by Japanese Buddhist groups since their involvement in the war
- “We, the Japan Buddhist Federation, will strive to **reduce our dependence** on such nuclear power that threatens life and to realize a society based on sustainable energy. We must choose a path in which personal happiness is harmonized with human welfare, instead of wishing for prosperity at the expense of others. Finally, we would like to make an appeal for building societies that protect each and every life **through each individual confronting this issue themselves by reflecting on** their own lifestyle, letting go of excessive materialistic greed, finding contentment in the feeling of moderation, and doing their best to realize living in humility with nature.”



Rev. Yoshiharu Tomatsu,  
Secretary General 2010-12



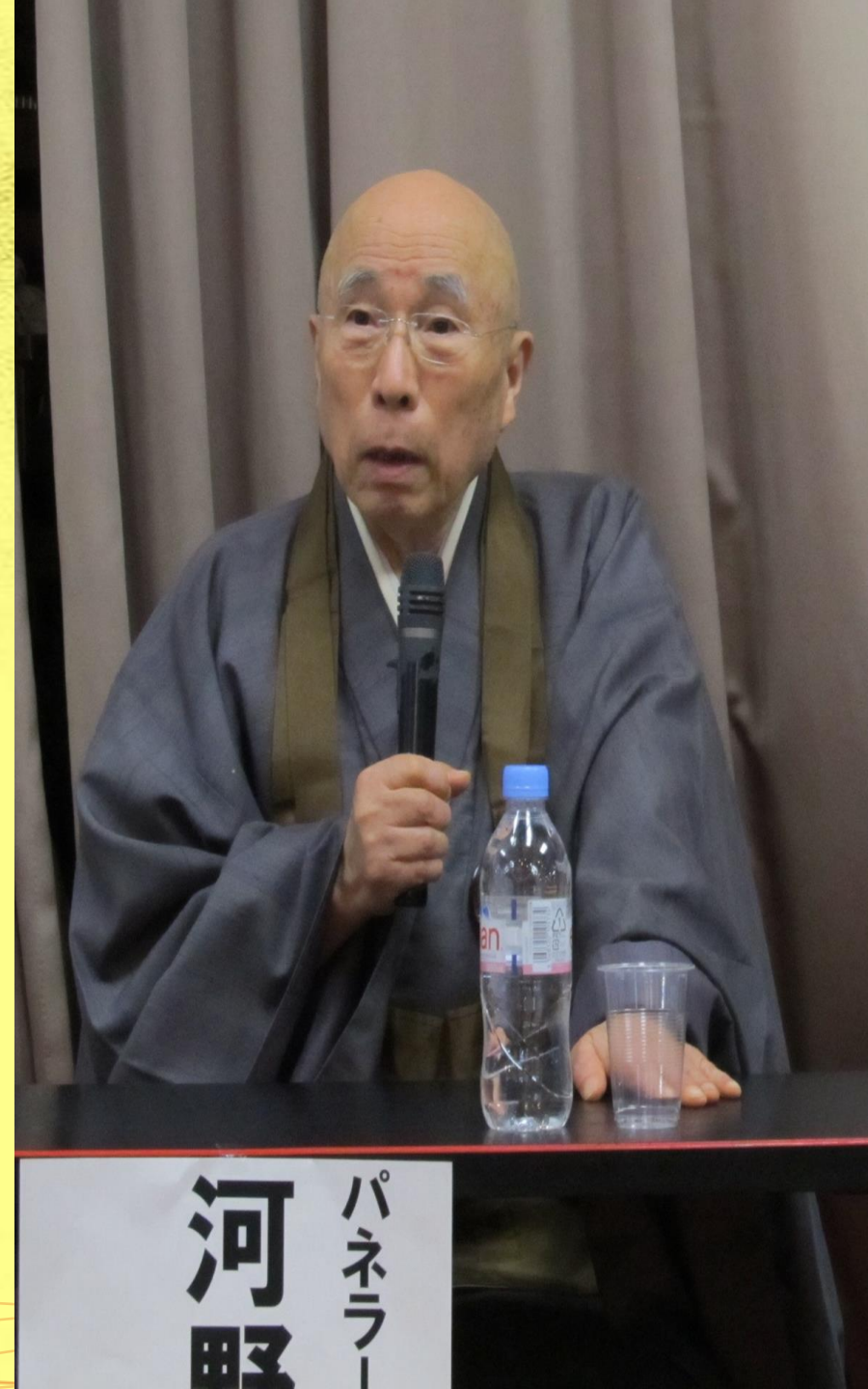
# Roshi Taitsu Kono

*President of JBF 2010-2012*

*Chief Priest of the Myoshin-ji*

*Rinzai Sect 2010-2014*

“I feel that the **war issue and the nuclear issue are the same**. They both **involved national policy**, but not everyone agreed with such policy. There were only a handful of them in both cases, but there were people who opposed and courageously made warnings. However, this never became a large voice, and so we met with disaster made by this **massive mainstream**. On this point, nuclear power and the war followed the same trend.”



“Young people entering the way of the Buddha **must hold fast to and install in their gut** the fundamental idea in Buddhism of the value of sentient life and respect for human rights. I want them to speak and act with courage in anything they do. **Not just in the time of the war**, but even today, there are many people who do not speak the truth because of the prevailing stance in society. **Buddhists don't really need to care about prevailing social trends**, so they should speak out clearly. I would like to them to think that **their role as abbots is to say what is right and to protect sentient life and human rights.**”





















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May 21, 2014: Fukui court blocks Oi nuclear reactor restart in landmark ruling as Rev. Tetsuen Nakajima acts as citizens' group spokesperson



March 9, 2020, The Interfaith Forum for the Review of National Nuclear Policy presented a suit in the Tokyo District Court calling for the suspension of operations at the Rokkasho Nuclear Reprocessing Plant operated by Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. (*Nihon Gen-nen*), located in Aomori on the northern tip of the main island of Honshu.