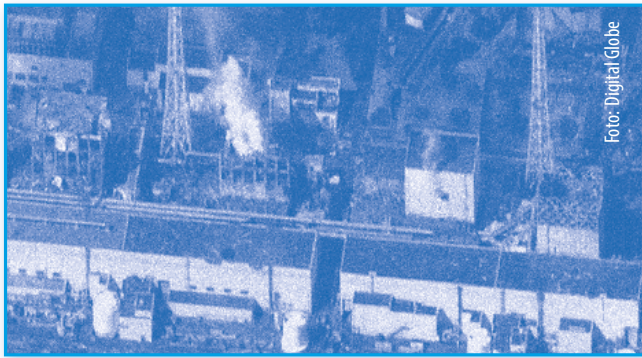


## The nuclear catastrophe in Japan

On March 11th, 2011, a nuclear catastrophe occurred in Japan: an earthquake, a tsunami and multiple explosions destroyed four reactor blocks of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. Massive amounts of radioactive particles were released and contaminated large parts of the region.

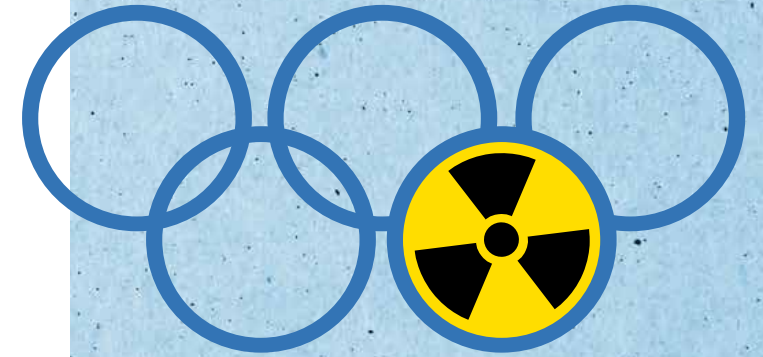


The ecological and social consequences of this catastrophe can be seen everywhere in the country: whole families uprooted from their ancestral homes, deserted evacuation zones, hundreds of thousands of bags of irradiated soil dumped all over the country, contaminated forests, rivers and lakes. **Normality has not returned to Japan.**

## Large-scale contamination

The reactors continue to be a radiation hazard as further catastrophes could occur at any time. Every day adds more radioactive contamination to the ocean, air and soil. Enormous amounts of radioactive waste are stored in the open air on the premises of the power plant.

Should there be another earthquake, these would pose a grave danger to the population and the environment. The nuclear catastrophe still continues today.



# TOKYO 2020

## The Radioactive Olympics

# 放射性オリンピック

## Olympic Games in Fukushima?

Japan is inviting athletes from around the world to take part in the Tokyo Olympic Games. After the Olympics could not take place in 2020, they are now to be held in the summer of 2021. We are hoping for the games to be fair and peaceful. At the same time, we are worried about plans to host baseball and softball competitions in Fukushima City, just 50 km away from the ruins of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. It was here, in 2011, that multiple nuclear meltdowns took place, spreading radioactivity across Japan and the Pacific Ocean – a catastrophe comparable only to the nuclear meltdown Chernobyl.

In light of the upcoming Olympic Games in Japan, the anti-nuclear movement is organizing an international campaign that will focus on the health effects of radioactive contamination, especially for people with increased vulnerability towards ionizing radiation, such as pregnant women and children. According to the Japanese government, the Olympic Games will likely cost more than \$25 billion. **We denounce the attempt of the Japanese government to pretend that normality has returned to the contaminated regions of Japan.**



Foto: Nuclear Regulatory Commission, CC BY 2.0

## Dangerous contamination

International regulations limit the permitted dose for additional radiation of the general public following a nuclear accident to 1 mSv per year. In areas where evacuation orders were recently lifted, the returning population will be exposed to levels of up to 20 mSv per year. Even places that have undergone extensive decontamination efforts could be recontaminated at any time by unfavourable weather conditions, as mountains and forests serve as a continuous depot for radioactive particles.

Since 2019, the Japanese authorities have tried to force nuclear refugees who were evacuated from the irradiated areas to return by cutting their financial assistance and ending housing schemes. Meanwhile, Fukushima Medical University publishes the findings of thyroid screenings of people under the age of 18 at the time of the nuclear meltdowns. Similar to the Chernobyl disaster, they are showing an increased incidence of thyroid cancer. So far, 197 cases have been confirmed and more than 50 further patients are still waiting for operations.



Foto: Ian Thomas Ash

### Further reading

**IPPNW Information:** Health effects of ionising radiation: Summary of expert meeting in Ulm, Germany, October 19th, 2013. [ippnw.de/bit/ionising\\_radiation](http://ippnw.de/bit/ionising_radiation)

**IPPNW Report:** „30 years living with Chernobyl – 5 years living with Fukushima - Health effects of the nuclear disasters in Chernobyl and Fukushima“ (2016) [ippnw.de/bit/chernobyl\\_fukushima](http://ippnw.de/bit/chernobyl_fukushima)

[www.radioactive-olympics.org](http://www.radioactive-olympics.org)

### Contact

German affiliate of IPPNW:  
Deutsche Sektion der Internationalen Ärzte für die Verhütung des Atomkrieges / Ärzte in sozialer Verantwortung e.V. (IPPNW)

Körtestraße 10, 10967 Berlin  
**Phone:** +49 (0)30 698 07 40  
**Fax:** +49 (0)30 693 81 66  
**Email:** olympia2020@ippnw.de

Authors: Dr. Annette Bänsch-Richter-Hansen,  
Dr. Alex Rosen, Dr. Jörg Schmid

