Japanese nuclear reactors threaten both northern & southern hemispheres

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), after visiting the quake and tsunami-stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant in April 2012, urged the US and Japan to initiate an immediate international effort to stabilize the facility before another quake causes further catastrophic radioactive contamination of the Pacific Ocean.

A few issues that have NOT been sufficiently covered in the US by the mainstream corporate media:

1. The cores of reactors 1, 2 and 3 at Fukushima have melted down into, and all evidence indicates through, their containment vessels.
2. Japan admits that between 330-400 tons of radioactive water has been spewing DAILY into the Pacific Ocean since 3/11/2011.
3. The US nuclear industrial complex (nuclear power & weapons) has a stake in minimizing the public’s awareness of the danger. (There are many similar reactors currently operating in the United States.)

What can we do to deal realistically with the threat posed by the Fukushima nuclear disaster?

First, we must look at the urgency. As the NYT put it: “Whether the chances (of disaster) are small or large, changes should be made quickly because of the magnitude of the potential calamity.” —— from 2012 article which presented a balanced overview of the situation: http://nyti.ms/1gLGFGL

Secondly, we must mobilize public support to force this change. The Japanese government seems more intent on reassuring people than effectively accelerating the cleanup. This is understandable, given the enormous expense required—estimated at $500 BILLION dollars. Japan’s ostensible request for international assistance has been met with little adequate response (especially alarming, since severe effects on the entire planet could escalate more rapidly with another catastrophic event at Fukushima). Increased public awareness and grassroots international pressure is required to bring about action.

Nuclear disaster affects everyone—the 1% as well as the 99%. It does not discriminate on the basis of skin color, religion, political affiliation, neighborhood, sexual orientation, or any of the other variables which tend to divide people. Unlike the threat of nuclear war, the Fukushima situation is nonpartisan, so that national loyalties and ideologies don’t come into play. This should make it easier for people to unite around the threat from the damaged reactors.

What’s needed is for people to overcome denial and become aware.

1. A good Geiger counter runs $600 to $800, anything less is not worth buying. The ability to detect increases in radiation oneself rather than relying on biased government or industry sources is empowering. Every neighborhood should have one.
2. Information IS available, if one searches for it. www.enenews.com is one of the best websites — also visit our facebook page for updates about Fukushima — https://www.facebook.com/FukushimaResponseCampaign
3. We need to make the situation at Fukushima a priority. There are so many issues demanding our attention these days—ecological, humanitarian, political—that it’s hard to put one ahead of the rest. But the level of threat to all living beings posed by the instability at Fukushima is equivalent to an asteroid headed toward Earth—it must be attended to, NOW.
4. We need to overcome the social taboo against discussing nuclear threats, and express our concerns—to our family, friends, neighbors, political representatives.
5. We need to get together and organize to put pressure on the UN and governments around the world to insist that Japan allow international supervision, assistance, and funding. Town forums, community meetings, work groups are helpful.

Please visit FukushimaResponse.org for links, up-to-date info, petitions, resolutions, and a calendar of upcoming events and actions!