Worldwide Responses to the 20 Millisievert Controversy

Satoko Oka Norimatsu

Between 2012 and 2014 we posted a number of articles on contemporary affairs without giving them volume and issue numbers or dates. Often the date can be determined from internal evidence in the article, but sometimes not. We have decided retrospectively to list all of them as Volume 10, Issue 54 with a date of 2012 with the understanding that all were published between 2012 and 2014.

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On April 19, the Japanese government raised the allowable annual radiation exposure limit from 1 mSV (millisievert) to 20 mSV. The decision has been heavily criticized by experts inside and outside Japan, as it is applied to children who are more susceptible to radiation, and this limit does not take internal radiation dosage into consideration. 20 mSV is the yearly average of what is allowed for Japanese nuclear plant workers under normal circumstances. On this website, we have so far primarily written and provided information in English on this “20 mSV” issue and on the Fukushima nuclear crisis in general. In this post we attempt to compile a list of articles, video news, press releases available in English and other languages.

Press TV
Japanese govt. under fire for schoolyard radiation

http://www.presstv.ir/detail/177926.html
Japan confirms meltdown at 3 reactors
http://www.presstv.ir/detail/181545.html

New York Times
Angry Parents in Japan Confront Government Over Radiation Levels
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/26/world/asia/26japan.html?_r=1&emc=tnt&tntemail0=y
Japan Tries to Ease Fury of Parents Near Plant

AFP
Japanese protest revised school radiation limit

The Guardian
Fukushima parents dish the dirt in protest over radiation levels
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/may/02/parents-revolt-radiation-levels

The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus (most comprehensive and in-depth reports on the issue)
Protests: The 20 Millisievert Decision and the Future of Atomic Energy in Japan
http://www.japanfocus.org/events/view/86
20 Millisieverts for Children and Kosako Toshiso’s Resignation
http://www.japanfocus.org/events/view/83
Save the Children: Radiation Exposure of Fukushima Students
http://www.japanfocus.org/events/view/81

Spanish National TV "TV1"
Nuevos datos confirman la gravedad de la
crisis nuclear de Fukushima

Der Spiegel
Japan legt hohe Strahlengrenzwerte für Kinder fest
http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/mensch/0,1518,758410,00.html

[Criticism]

Tillman Ruff’s Opinion Article in Kyodo News Agency
OPINION: Children of Fukushima need our protection

A bilingual version on Peace Philosophy Centre

IPPNW’s letter to Education Minister Takaki (bilingual) on Peace Philosophy Centre
IPPNW to Japanese Government: Raising Allowable Radiation Dose for Fukushima Children "Unacceptable."

PSR (Physicians for Social Responsibility)
PSR Press Conference on Chernobyl Anniversary
(with Japanese translation)
Physicians for Social Responsibility Calls 20 mSV for Children "Unconscionable."
http://peacephilosophy.blogspot.com/2011/05/blog-post_06.html

The Japan Medical Association
http://peacephilosophy.blogspot.com/2011/05/20-msv-for-children-scientific-basis.html

[NGOs]

Green Action (One of the four NGOs leading the movement to get the government to rescind the 20 mSV decision.)
Fukushima Update
http://fukushima.greenaction-japan.org/

MSCR (Moms to Save Children from Radiation)
http://mscr2011.jugem.jp/?eid=4

French petition campaign
Un blog du Réseau "Sortir du nucléaire"
Pétition urgente :
Refusons l’exposition des enfants japonais à des doses élevées de radioactivité