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Statement of “The International Forum for a Nuclear Free World” Nippon Sei Ko Kai (NSKK, the Anglican Communion in Japan)

Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan; hereafter, “NSKK”), at its 59th (Regular) Synod in 2012, in a resolution “Seeking a World without Nuclear Power Plants,” and again in the same year, at the “Mission Conference of NSKK, ‘The Dignity of Life,’” clearly expressed its position on the issue of nuclear power generation. To embody this position, the Communion convened the “International Forum for a Nuclear-Free World” at Sendai Christ Church and Moniwa-so, Sendai, from May 28 to 31, 2019. Sixty-eight participants in all gathered together, including lay participants and clergy (including Diocesan Bishops); participants from Anglican/Episcopal Churches of England, the United States, Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines; members of the National Christian Council in Japan Peace and Nuclear Issues Committee; members of the NSKK Justice and Peace Committee; the Secretaries of the NSKK Provincial Office; the Organizing Committee of the Forum; and stewards.

For the keynote lecture(held at Sendai Christ Church and open to the general public), “Messages from Germany, which has drastically shifted its energy policies”, Dr. Miranda Alice Schreurs from Germany was invited. The second lecture, “Per Crucem Ad Lucem (Through the Cross to the Light); Voices of sufferers and prayer in calamity,” was delivered by the Reverend Naoya Kawakami. After this, messages were received from the Right Reverend David J. H. Lai of Taiwan, the Reverend Kim Kisuk of South Korea, and the Reverend Makito Aizawa of Japan, after which, through two rounds of group sharing, participants had times of learning and conversing, so as to better be able to seek a nuclear plant free world.

Now, all Forum participants adopt the following Statement and issue this appeal.

Affirming the Preciousness of Life, in Order that Life may be Lived – For a World Free of Nuclear Power –

The Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station disaster and subsequent damage which occurred as a result of the March 11, 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake completely shattered the myth of safety and made us aware of the extreme danger of nuclear power generation. We believe that it is highly important that this issue of nuclear power generation be considered from the perspective of the dignity of life

As long as nuclear power generation is operative, it continues to create dangerous radioactive waste. What is real safety? Surely, the safety necessary for the survival of all life would be to permit no further increase of hazardous waste. In addition, when one thinks about nuclear power generation, “nuclear weapons” and “nuclear power generation” are two sides of a single coin; the technology can at any time be diverted to nuclear weapons and threaten the right to live in peace.

No longer should we continue as a society with the economic priority of reliance upon nuclear power generation; we should take a new path, of course practicing power saving and energy conservation, and we should make policy changes to renewable energy. The process of producing electricity through nuclear power generation also becomes a source of global warming. Also, we have recognized that, when a nuclear power plant accident occurs, it is irreparable, and is more hazardous than with any other energy source. While on the one hand, grave effects remain now, after eight years have passed, with the passage of time we have become forgetful of the pain and suffering of those afflicted by the disaster.

In the Collect (special prayer) for the International Forum for a Nuclear-Free World, we prayed “[O God,] we have disobeyed your command to govern your creation which you entrusted to us, we have misused natural resources, and through nuclear accidents we have destroyed nature and people's livelihoods. Forgive us these sins, we pray. Please grant us the wisdom and strength to return to your love, to remember those in the midst of suffering, and to create a world without nuclear power plants in which we may coexist with all life.”

As we take this journey of striving for a world free of nuclear power generation, in order to continue as “those who bear witness to the events at Fukushima,” we make the following appeal:

- Remember and continue to bear witness to all the effects of the Great East Japan Earthquake.
- Continue to be aware that, when a nuclear accident occurs, the resulting situation cannot be undone.
- Institute a “Fukushima Week” (provisional name) within NSKK, listen to what “that incident” speaks to us, learn about it, value life, and continue to walk in ways that will bring about a society living in peace.
- Strengthen and improve domestic and international networks for the purpose of denuclearization.
- Permit no further increase of the negative legacy of nuclear power plants for the next generation which will inherit the future.
- In each Diocese, build a model church which is dependent on natural energy, to show the way.
- Establish a system within NSKK of financial assistance for individual churches when they switch to natural energy.
- Work to concretely implement one of the Fifth Mark of Mission, “To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”

Will you not continue with us, through these measures, in our walk to seek a world free of nuclear power generation?

“the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” (Mark 1 : 3, ESV)

Adopted by the Participants,

Nihon Sei Ko Kai “The International Forum for a Nuclear-Free World,”