

JEAN-FRANÇOIS JULLIARD: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GREENPEACE FRANCE

We came to Fukushima to meet local people and get their testimonies about the disaster, and because it is our duty as an environmental organisation to keep talking about what happened in Fukushima and not to forget.

I heard many times on the tour in Fukushima people saying: "Before the disaster we did not believe it could happen. We were told nuclear technology was 100% safe, and we did not have to worry about it." This is exactly what pro-nuclear people are currently saying in France and in other nuclear European countries. I'll ask François Hollande to listen more to the Fukushima victims and make the right choice for French citizens: an energy transition to renewable energy has to start now, and he should not extend the lifetime of the old nuclear power plants at all.

Jean-François Julliard, 40, joined Reporters Without Borders as a member of the Asia desk in 1998, and was appointed head of research in 2004, then deputy secretary-general in 2007. He played an active role in the campaign to boycott the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, protesting at the torch-lighting ceremony. He was appointed as a secretary-general in September 2008. In February 2012, he left Reporters Without Borders to become head of Greenpeace's office in France.

MARTIN DONAT: MEMBER OF GERMAN COUNCIL IN THE DISTRICT OF LÜCHOW-DANNENBERG

Most impressive was that people cannot trust in nuclear operators and government; they have to help themselves and they urgently need help from NGOs. Victims are forced to return to contaminated villages, under the pretense of successful decontamination. So, children are playing on radioactively contaminated ground and the response operation cannot manage the disaster. "We hadn't learned the lesson of Chernobyl," an old farmer said, "we were just able to start nuclear power, but we can't stop it!" It wasn't the people; it was the technology that was wrong. I want to report to people in Germany about the pain of the Japanese people, who unwillingly forced Germany to decide the phase-out of nuclear power.

Martin Donat, 50, father, grandfather, landscape gardener and therapist for work, member of German council in the district of Lüchow-Dannenberg, where a deep geological high-level radioactive waste depot has been planned for 35 years at the village Gorleben, and chair of the regional anti-nuclear citizens initiative. Website: www.bi-luechow-dannenberg.de

SATYAJIT VISHWANATH CHAVAN: CIVIL ENGINEER

As an anti-nuclear activist who has been protesting against the proposed Jaitapur nuclear plant in India, a chance to visit the victims of Fukushima is more than just a learning experience. The aim is also to witness their plight and take their story home. Even though we are different in many aspects, I can relate to them. Their attachment to their land and their home is understandable. What I could not understand though is their government's move to sell nuclear technology to other countries. Instead, they should lead the world away from this inherently dangerous technology.

Satyajit Vishwanath Chavan, 41, is a civil engineer. He has been associated with the Jaitapur anti-nuclear movement since its very beginning. Based in Mumbai, he has been fighting for and with the local people. Currently, he is the convenor and media coordinator for Jaitapur Anujeev Prakalp Virodhee Abhiyaan, a group of activists against the nuclear power plants at the grass roots level. As an editor of Jaitapur Times, a bimonthly newsletter, he aims to make both the local people and the decision makers aware of the dangers of nuclear power.

SUNDARRAJAN GOMATHINAYAGAM: MEMBER OF POOVULAGIN NANBARGAL, AN INDIAN ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT

Today, the Idinthakarai struggle against a nuclear energy park is recognised as one of the most important struggles in independent India. How? From the bottom of my heart, I thank the Fukushima disaster for that. Not so long ago, the world woke up to the fact that Japan, several times more developed than a country like India, could have a catastrophe. That woke up my people too. I wish to thank you because while paying your own dear price to the catastrophe, you also created an awareness that was otherwise impossible. When I go back, I will tell my comrades in struggle and those who are yet to be won over to our struggle against nuclear energy about the resilience of people in Fukushima. Fukushima was our example in one way and now when I go back, it will be an example in more than one way.

Sundarrajan Gomathinayagam, 41, a member of Poovulagin Nanbargal, an environmental movement. He describes himself as "a full-time environmental activist and a part-time software professional". He has been on forefront of both the anti-nuclear struggles in Tamil Nadu, against Kalpakkam, as well as at Koodankulam. He is a part of the biggest people's solidarity movement against nuclear power, protesting against TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear disaster in 2011. He is also one of the main petitioners in the Supreme Court case against Koodankulam reactors. The main ground of argument is adherence to India's Nuclear Liability law.

ANDRZEJ SLAWINSKI: OWNER OF TOURISM OPERATION, POLISH LOCAL ANTI-NUCLEAR LEADER

“The whole tour surprised me. Although I’ve followed news reports and been to Japan a few times, only the face-to-face meetings with the people of Fukushima have clarified my view. Now I can really see what a tragedy they and their children have gone through, and many of them still struggle with no or very limited help from the authorities. I also see now how people have been misinformed by the authorities regarding radiation levels and health risks, and this still goes on. In Poland, where the government wants to build the first nuclear power plant, just two kilometres from my village, we’re also manipulated. The government says that the decontamination process in Fukushima is going well, and that people have been properly compensated, both of which are simply not true. My pregnant wife and I, and my neighbours, are conscious enough to be willing to take the lesson learned from Fukushima, which is: No Nuclear. I want to further build on the contacts established in Fukushima to oppose the Polish nuclear project even more strongly and more effectively. I will be very honoured if Mr. Katsutaka Idogawa, ex-mayor of Futaba, visits Poland and says straight to our mayors and ministers how dangerous nuclear energy is in reality, and what he and his people and the people of the whole prefecture have had to go through.”

Andrzej Slawinski, (54), owner of a tourism operation, is a local anti-nuclear leader, an inhabitant of Krokowa municipality, one of the three locations proposed for the new nuclear power plant. He's the head of the local anti-nuclear inhabitants' committee (webpage: <http://www.niedlaatomu.pl/>). He runs a private business - a tourist farm. He was also a co-organiser of the Chernobyl liquidators' visit and various anti-nuclear events like demonstrations, happenings and conferences.

PROF. YOON HOSEOB: PROFESSOR EMERITUS, KOOKMIN UNIVERSITY

“ People in Fukushima still suffer, and their rights to live healthy and happy lives have been deliberately violated. They seem nothing different from my friends and family in South Korea. Therefore, I was able to face what could happen in my country if the same tragedy happens in South Korea. People will suffer and will be uninformed, deceived, abandoned and forgotten. What if our next, unborn generation could ask a question, was nuclear power really your only choice? We have to stop ignoring the truth. We do have safe, cleaner and cheaper options.”

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*Prof. Yoon Hoseob, 71, is a “Green Designer” and a Professor Emeritus at Kookmin University, South Korea. He graduated from the Seoul National University College of Fine Art and worked as a Creative Director for several companies for 15 years. At the University he taught visual communication design for 18 years. He has held a number of exhibitions on different environment topics, including: Stop Global Warming, and One man Show, Everyday ARTday, Everyday eARTday in Korea, Japan, and Thailand. Since the Fukushima accident, he has been actively sending a message to society calling for a nuclear-free future through his art works.
(Website: www.greencanvas.com)*