

Fairewinds Energy Education

Nuclear Information and Resource Service

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Media Advisory: FAIREWINDS and NIRS Speaking Tour of Japan Events Mark Five Years since Tohoku Quake and Fukushima Daiichi Meltdowns Sakurajima Volcano Eruption adds new focus to Atomic Power Risk

Arnie Gundersen of Fairewinds Energy Education and Mary Olson of Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) will tour Japan February 11—March 15, beginning and ending in the Fukushima Prefecture. Nuclear risk in Japan has been heightened yet again by the eruption of the Sakurajima Volcano, just 30 miles from the recently restarted Sendai atomic power station.

See this tweet from Fairewinds for more info:

<https://twitter.com/fairewinds/status/695701966106857472>

Invited by a consortium of organizations and NGO leaders, Olson and Gundersen will be speaking to the general public and various educational institutions. They will also conduct private meetings with other experts and concerned citizens focused on nuclear policy. Both Olson and Gundersen have decades of experience working on atomic issues, Olson as an educator and advocate, Gundersen as a nuclear engineer and technical expert witness. Olson's speaking focus will be on the impact of radiation to human health with an emphasis on the higher radiation exposure hazard for women and young girls compared to men and boys. Gundersen will present a review of the meltdown at Fukushima Daiichi, and address safety concerns, including the serious issue of aging, pertaining to nuclear reactor construction and design, relevant to the Japanese government's decision to re-start their atomic fleet.

"It is unusual to have a full month abroad. I am excited and deeply humbled to be invited to both listen and to speak with people who have been living with one of the biggest nuclear disasters to date," said Mary Olson, "Contamination from Tepco's Fukushima Daiichi persists in many communities, people who have been evacuated or voluntarily left are still in limbo. They are trying to make sense of this, while many others have been told 'Fukushima is over, it's time to move on and restart reactors.' People want to get an outside view. Arnie Gundersen and I can do that."

Location of events range from Kakogawa City to Tokyo, including Kobe, Hiroshima, Kyoto, and select places in between. In Kobe, Gundersen will visit a community that hosts a nuclear power plant that was impacted by a level 7 earthquake, one of the strongest on record, in 1995. Olson will visit Kyoto City to spend time with concerned mothers and grandmothers living near atomic reactors that are currently closed, but targeted for re-start by the current Japanese government. Gundersen and Olson will also present at the Osaka Global Environmental Forum on February 27. A more detailed schedule (in Japanese) is available here: <http://www.peacenewsjapan.com/tour/2016.pdf>

In addition to public engagement and education of the ongoing impact of TEPCO's Fukushima atomic disaster, both delegates from the US will engage in original work, collecting data to support future analysis. Olson will be blogging during her trip, and entries will be posted on the GreenWorld blog site <http://safeenergy.org>. Fairewinds Energy Education will conduct podcasts and host updates provided by their Chief Engineer Arnie Gundersen during his travels, Fairewinds will also be releasing a 5-year retrospective of the continuous meltdown at Fukushima Daiichi which will be released prior to the commemoration of the events of March 11, 2011.

NIRS is hosting a report-back from the trip in the form of a Tele-Briefing including both Olson and Gundersen. It is open to the public at no fee on April 5, 2016 at 8 pm (eastern). For more information contact: nirsnet@nirs.org or subscribe to receive a notice: <http://www.nirs.org/about/list.htm>

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