Anti-Nuclear Movement of National YWCA of Korea 2018-2019

Current South Korea Situation relating to Nuclear Power plants

Currently, South Korea has 24 nuclear power plants, one permanently cut-off, and four more scheduled to be built by 2022, including the temporary suspended Shin-Kori Nuclear Power Plant No. 5 and 6. We are in the top 6 ranking country with the most nuclear reactors in the world along with the highest density of nuclear power plants of any country. To overcome this Korean situation, president Moon and Seoul City are carrying out policies to abolish nuclear power plants and support for local energy conversion. Civic groups continuously urges policies for nuclear waste or electricity usage.

Anti-nuclear energy movement effort and achievement of National YWCA of Korea

KOREA YWCA has been carrying out anti-nuke movements since year 2012. In 2018, we have focused on seeking alternative energy sources. Currently, we are conducting following activities:

1) YWCA Anti-Nuke Fire Day Campaign is being actively carried out by local YWCAs throughout country. KOREA YWCA conducted the simultaneous anti-nuke campaign in 34 regions with local YWCAs in March, 2018. So far, “YWCA Anti-Nuke Fire Day Campaign” in Seoul lasted up to 243 times since 2014.

2) In 2019, we issued a textbook for teenagers regarding Anti-Nuke and Energy Conversion, “Which energy I would choose?” 55 anti-nuclear instructors will be trained and the instructors will teach the textbook contents in public schools of their regions.

3) We are raising issues about nuclear wastes. Korea has operated nuclear power plants for more than 40 years, but still cannot find a way to dispose nuclear waste. To date, the amount of high-level nuclear waste accumulated is 16,500 tons. KOREA YWCA continues solidarity with other civic groups and is participating campaigns to stop nuclear waste.

4) We are preparing issues on the anti-nuclear agenda for the 2020 General Elections. We will support candidates who have anti-nuke pledges by visiting their election camps, and conduct voter’s manifesto movement.

5) Local YWCAs are trying alternative energy production such as solar power plants with solidarity of other civic groups in their regions. Cooperative unions in which YWCAs participated installed photovoltaic panels at public buildings and are generating electricity.

6) KOREA YWCA has been implementing the joint resolution submitted to World YWCA in 2015 and continuously been in league with international anti-nuke organizations, for example, holding lectures, online campaign, etc.
National YWCA of Korea’s Position

We express deep consent about the inspiring message and reflections for a world without Nuclear Weapons raised by the Peace Messengers from Japan. Not only opposing to using nuclear power plants, KOREA YWCA is also doing the movements urging for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. We submitted the “Resolution on the Solidarity for the Establishment of Permanent Peace Treaty on the Korean Peninsula” to World YWCA with 17 member YWCAs signed and the resolution will be shared at this 29th World Council workshop. We kindly invite World YWCA for support and advocate in making the peaceful world without any war nor any nuclear weapon.

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