

Asia-Pacific Journal* Articles Recommended for Further Reading*“Fukushima One Year On: Nuclear workers and citizens at risk”**

Paul Jobin

March 26, 2012

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Paul-Jobin/3729>

This interview with Paul Jobin touches on the opinions of nuclear power plant workers and local residents, and presents an analysis of their responses to government policies. Jobin has researched nuclear power plant workers since 2002, and he conducted many interviews after the Fukushima disaster. Jobin also discusses the health risks of exposure to radiation.

“Ousting Kan Naoto: The Politics of Nuclear Crisis and Renewable Energy in Japan”

Jeff Kingston

September 26, 2011

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Jeff-Kingston/3610>

Paul Scalise mentioned former Japanese Prime Minister KAN Naoto's pro-renewable energy positions several times in his article. This article explains the political ramifications for Kan: as a result of his actions, Kingston argues, Kan lost his job in August 2011. This article shows the political risks of being a renewable energy advocate when the political and corporate landscape remains largely pro-nuclear.

“Japan's Nuclear Village”

Jeff Kingston

September 10, 2012

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Jeff-Kingston/3822>

Kingston explains what people mean when they criticize “the nuclear village,” the term widely used to refer to the cooperation between power companies, the national government, major media outlets, and some scholars and local government officials in their support of nuclear energy. He provides the perspective of MADARAME Haruki, a nuclear expert formerly associated with the nuclear village. Madarame testifies about “fundamentally flawed” safety programs in nuclear power plants that indirectly led to the Fukushima disaster. Kingston highlights continuing concerns about safety and lax oversight, arguing that the pressure to cut costs is too influential when it comes to the energy industry. He devotes a section specifically to public opinion on nuclear power, and he analyzes the impact public opinion can have on nuclear policy, which is at present “extremely well insulated from democratic processes.” Finally, Kingston summarizes and updates his article “Ousting Kan Naoto.”

“Fallout From the Fukushima Shock: Japan’s Emerging Energy Policy”

Andrew DeWit

November 7, 2011

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Andrew-DeWit/3645>

Although a large proportion of the Japanese public no longer supports nuclear power, there is no clear alternative source of energy; every option has many drawbacks. Analyzing Japan’s political climate, renewable energy advocate Andrew DeWit proposes what he sees as the best solution: the feed-in tariff, which is a policy mechanism used to neutralize the higher costs of renewable energy as they are developed. DeWit also compares Japan’s progress in adopting renewable energy to other nations, particularly China, and concludes that Japan will need a major shift in its energy policy to maintain pace with the rest of the world in adopting renewable energy technologies. He is in dialogue with Paul Scalise.

“Get FIT: Public Policy, the Smart State and the Energy-Environmental Revolution”

Andrew DeWit

February 8, 2010

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-Andrew-DeWit/3300>

In this article, DeWit gives an in-depth explanation of the feed-in tariff (FIT) which he champions in “Fallout From the Fukushima Shock” above. Writing a year prior to the Fukushima disaster, DeWit’s leading motivation for urging the adoption of renewable energy is preventing the potential environmental catastrophe from climate change, rather than the dangers inherent in relying on nuclear power.

For more information on the dangers of radiation and the failures of the Japanese government following the Fukushima disaster, readers are encouraged to read the *Asia-Pacific Journal* course reader, “**Japan’s ‘Abandoned People’ in the Wake of Fukushima.**”

Recommended Articles from Other Sources**“COMMENTARY: Japan should carve out its future energy policy soon”**

Robert Dujarric and Paul J. Scalise

April 30, 2012

<http://ajw.asahi.com/article/views/opinion/AJ201204300007>

Scalise and Dujarric continue to support nuclear power, believing that Japan ought not to rely on imported oil, coal, and other fossil fuels, and that renewable energy cannot provide enough power for at least 20 years. They counter many of the anti-nuclear arguments presented above, maintaining that despite the risks of nuclear power, its use is necessary for Japan’s prosperity to continue.

“Development of Sustainable Energy”

Position Statement: Explanation

Atomic Energy Society of Japan: Social and Environmental Division

August 2010

http://www.aesj.or.jp/en/about_us/ps/AESJ-PS001e.pdf

This brief document demonstrates some of the arguments in favor of nuclear power provided by the nuclear energy industry itself. The AESJ asserts that nuclear power will help combat global warming and enhance energy security, and therefore it is important to increase the use of nuclear power. Further, the AESJ attempts to show that nuclear power is “sustainable” and almost like a renewable, since breeder reactors can create plutonium to be used as fuel and other waste products from power production can be recycled as well.