



15th February 2013

Mr. Kim Jong-un,

First Chairman of the National Defense Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Statement of Protest against the Nuclear Test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

On 12th February, the Korean Central News Agency broadcasted about the third nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) after October 2006 and May 2009, as "part of practical measures of counteraction to defend the country's security and sovereignty in the face of the ferocious hostile act of the U.S".

The YWCA of Japan strongly protests against the nuclear test that your country carried out, as it is not only a global environmental destruction but also an act that may bring an irretrievable situation in Northeast Asia.

The YWCA of Japan has long been working to convey the horror of nuclear through our experience as a country that suffered nuclear attacks, by organizing an educational program on peace called the "Pilgrimage to Hiroshima" since 1970. Learning from the testimonies of survivors, we have worked toward total elimination of nuclear weapons. We are also advocating within and outside Japan against the so-called "peaceful usage of nuclear" including nuclear power generation, as it is closely connected to nuclear weapon development.

With serious acknowledgement of the wrong actions committed by Japan in history, we have also sought for peace and stability of Northeast Asia, through grassroots dialogue with sister organizations in Northeast Asia. We are also advocating for the rights of women who were sexually exploited by the Japanese military and the rights of children with their roots in Korea, living in Japan.

Through our experiences, we wish to send you a clear message: Peace and security cannot be achieved by "Nuclear".

Regardless of how harsh international circumstances your country is facing today, your development of nuclear weapons, which is a threat to the whole human race, may trigger further international economic sanctions which will cause more sufferings on your people, especially the children who are already suffering from food shortage. We must join hands beyond national borders and interests to protect the healthy growth of children, who are the bearers of future. Dialogue and building of trust are the only way to solve the threats that derived from international tensions. It is our sincere wish, therefore, that your county will abandon nuclear development and return to the dialogue table.

Peace and stability in Northeast Asia connects closely to global peace. We strongly urge you to make the wise and courageous decision to halt the move towards nuclear development and militarization and seek a constructive solution through international dialogue.

Sincerely yours,

侯野尚子

Naoko Matano
President
YWCA of Japan

Mikako Nishihara

Mikako Nishihara
General Secretary
YWCA of Japan