

## **Fukushima Nuclear Power Station (5 October 2011)**

In an open letter sent to the Prime Minister, the Japanese Ambassador in Wellington and the Secretary General of the United Nations, New Zealand Engineers for Social Responsibility said:

The committee and members of Engineers for Social Responsibility Inc extend their commiserations to the Japanese people and government in regard to the ongoing nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.

We wish to record our concern in regard to two matters.

We would urge the Japanese government to seek through the United Nations organisation the establishment of a global response team to bring together the required financial, technical, plant and manpower resources to take over the work of stabilising the site.

Secondly we strongly protest at proposals by the Japanese government and local government agencies to dispose of the vast quantities of material contaminated by radiation from the plant at many sites throughout Japan by burning or burying the irradiated material. Such actions simply re-distribute the irradiated material into the atmosphere and water table and move the problem 'elsewhere'. Since 'elsewhere' is where other people in Japan and in the world obtain their food and live, such an action is a further direct threat to the wellbeing of humanity and should not be contemplated.

The outcome we seek is the speedy stabilisation of the situation at the Fukushima plant site to the extent that further releases of harmful radiation to the environment are prevented for the life of the nuclear materials involved (in excess of 10,000 years), and that the procedures carried out to remove and stabilise nuclear contaminated materials found elsewhere in Japan and around the world do not lead to further redistribution of harmful nuclear materials.

We urge the New Zealand government to make these representations to the Japanese Government and to the United Nations immediately.