Bishops Oppose Dumping Radioactive Water into Ocean

Catholic Bishops in South Korea and Japan are speaking out against the Japanese government’s decision to dump radioactive water from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean.

On March 11, 2011 a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Japan causing a tsunami that seriously damaged the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

The ensuing meltdown is considered the worst nuclear accident since the Chernobyl disaster in 1986.

Now, liquid from the damaged power plant needs to be disposed of. The question is, how?

Most of the radioactive isotopes have been removed using a complex filtration process called the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS). But one isotope, tritium, cannot be removed, so water has been stored in huge tanks that will fill up by 2022, the BBC reported.

Scientists, environmentalists and fishing groups have opposed the idea of releasing the contaminated water into the sea, citing possible risks.

The statement from the bishops’ sites similar concerns.

Treated water "contains tritium, which is a radioactive material." "Secondary treatment of radionuclides remaining in the treated water is still in the testing stage, and no definite results have been obtained," the bishops’ said.
"Rather, we can say for sure that once released into the ocean, radioactive material is irreversible. "It will have impacts on humans and nature. It will cause greater anxiety and damage to people around the world," they added.

Read more.

Image courtesy of distelAPPArath on pixabay.

**Guinea Bans Corporal Punishment Against Children**

Guinea, a small country on Africa's west coast, has become the 61st country in the world to enact legislation prohibiting corporal punishment against children in all settings.

This change took effect in June 2020 with publication of the country's new Children's Code. In part, the legislation states "All forms of corporal punishment, cruel, inhuman degrading or humiliating treatment of children are explicitly prohibited, whether they take place in the family, educational, professional administrative, judicial, or other settings."

The enactment of this code is the culmination of years of campaigning from civil organizations as well as an ongoing commitment by the government of Guinea.

Read more.

Image courtesy of End Violence Against Children.

**Indian Farmers Protest New Agricultural Laws**
Last November, thousands of farmers and their families in India took to the streets and blocked highways to start a national strike. Information about the passing of three new agricultural laws hit the news, and farmers for more than 250 million people from the northern states crowded the capital city.

Unlike most farming communities in the United States which thrive off of large agribusiness and massive farms, India is the opposite and works on a much smaller scale. Most of India’s farmers own fewer than three acres of land and many are struggling to make ends meet. However, the small size of these farms doesn’t take away from the huge impact they have on the livelihoods of those around them.

From Anti-racism Daily:
"The agricultural sector in India makes up nearly fifteen percent of the country’s $2.9 trillion economy and employs around half of its 1.3 billion people—approximately more than 600 million workers—which is almost twice the entire population of the United States (CNN). This is possible because, for decades, they have sold their produce in their home state’s government-sanctioned markets that guarantee minimum prices on several key commodities. This all changed in September 2020 when Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, passed the new farming laws that will change the way the agricultural industry does business. These modifications will change the way crops are to be produced, stored, and sold. The laws include The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act (India Today)."

Read more.

Image courtesy of UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner.

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**Sudan: An Incubator for Young Entrepreneurs**

*Story from The Comboni Missionaries UK.*

The Comboni Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (CIEC) is an incubator for business that seeks to bring together the
original ideas of young entrepreneurs and the world of business. A model capable of contributing to the development of Sudan. We visited the establishment.

A study conducted in 2018 by the Sudanese Association for Social Entrepreneurship has shown that 80% of young Sudanese wanted to leave the country. Their frustration was motivated by a disastrous political and economic situation that offered them no opportunities. Two years later, there are still doubts but many also hope that the present Sudanese revolution and the changes it may bring may change things for the better.

In this context, initiatives like the Comboni Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (CIEC), gives the youth the opportunity to realise their entrepreneurial dreams without leaving Sudan.

Ali Musa, former CIEC director, remarks: “Once they have finished university, most of them are lost and do not know what to do because there is nobody to support them, so a centre like this may give them the energy and motivation to find their way in life and, at the same time, enrich society at large”. The notion is simple: “If you have an idea, the Centre will help you to realise it. In this way you find a job, but you also create jobs and so contribute to development.”

Learn more.

More Topics to Explore

- Pro-military marchers in Myanmar attack anti-coup protesters
- Anti-Asian Violence in US Demands Response
- Pan African Club condemns harassment of human rights activists in occupied Western Sahara
- Faiths institute asks Gates Foundation to change tactics in Africa

CALL TO ACTION

Clean Water for All

 Millions worldwide lack clean water, but we can help conserve
this precious resource by making simple lifestyle changes.

- Lower Your Energy Use. It takes energy to move, heat, and treat water and it takes water to make energy. Conservation has a multiplier effect, so conserve natural resources wherever you can!
- Organize a clean up project for rivers and oceans. Engage your whole community to clean up a local river, seaside or an ocean.
- Don’t overuse water. Make sure to close a tap when washing dishes, take short showers - Bathtubs require gallons more water than a 5-10 minute shower. Consider getting a water meter to be aware of your water usage.
- Reduce Your Use. Cut indoor water use by installing low-flow fixtures, checking regularly for leaks, and using a dishwasher, if you have one. Outdoors, replace thirsty lawns with native plants that don’t require additional water and install a rain barrel to capture and reuse natural precipitation.
- Find a Goal 6 charity you want to support. Any donation, big or small, can make a difference!

Help Bring Clean Water to Vulnerable People

The Comboni Missionaries have partnered with Water With Blessings to supply water filters to areas in northern Uganda without access to safe water. One filter can supply three families with clean water for life! Learn more.

GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

World Water day is March 22!

Water is essential not only to health, but also to poverty reduction, food security, peace and human rights, ecosystems and education.

Yet, one in three people live without sanitation. This is causing unnecessary disease and death. While substantial progress has been made in increasing access to clean water, lack of sanitation is undermining these advances. If we provide affordable equipment and education in hygiene practices, we can stop this senseless suffering and loss of life.
Some of the targets of Global Goal 6 are:

- **Safe and Affordable Drinking Water** — Support and organization that provides wells, boreholes, or water filters to those without access to clean, safe water. *Water With Blessings* is one such organization.
- **Increase Water-Use Efficiency and Ensure Freshwater Supplies** — Be aware of the water you use. Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth, collect rainwater to for your garden and yard, take shorter showers.
- **Improve Water Quality, Waterwater Treatment and Safe Resue** — Properly dispose of chemicals (not down the drain), avoid the use of fertilizer in your yard and garden.

Learn more about Sustainable Development Goal 6 [here](#).

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**U.N. INTERNATIONAL DAYS**

**2021**

**March 3**
**World Wildlife Day**
World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2021 under the theme "Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet," as a way to highlight the central role of forests, forest species and ecosystems services in sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people globally, and particularly of Indigenous and local communities with historic ties to forested and forest-adjacent areas. [Learn more](#).

**March 8**
**International Women's Day**
International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. The world has made unprecedented advances, but no country has achieved gender equality. [Learn more](#).

**March 21**
**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**
There are around 200 million people identifying themselves as being of African descent living in the Americas. Many millions more live in other parts of the world, outside of the African continent. Whether as descendants of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade or as more recent migrants, people of African descent constitute some of the poorest and most marginalized groups. They still have limited access to quality education, health services, housing and social security and their degree of political participation is often low. In addition, people of African descent can suffer from multiple forms of discrimination based on age, sex, language, religion, political opinion, social origin, property, disability, birth, or other status. [Learn more](#).

**March 22**
**World Water Day**
Hand hygiene is essential to containing the spread of COVID-19, as well as other infectious diseases. If you have access to soap and water, follow the steps and join
the #SafeHands campaign. For your community and for you. On this World Water Day, and any other day, remember to wash your hands regularly with water and soap or with an alcohol-based hand gel. See UNICEF’s guidelines on handwashing and UN Water’s fast facts on handwashing/ handhygiene. This #WorldWaterDay, let’s show our best hand hygiene moments to fight #COVID19. #SafeHands on #WorldWaterDay Learn more.