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Statement on the Environment and Indigenous Peoples  
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Ainu Association  
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We would like to let our indigenous brothers and sisters know what is going on in Japan right now.

Japan has entered an uncharted territory for humanity. A major earthquake hit Japan. After the unimaginable destruction, there emerged a vicious demon that no indigenous mythology in the world has known. Its name is radiation.

The humans that worship nuclear power built the myth of safety. It is safe. There will never be a leak. No earthquake will affect it. But all that myth was broken and the nuclear reactor faced a meltdown. Now we're looking powerlessly at the nuclear leak. Everyday, an unimaginable amount of radiation is spread to contaminate our produce and seafood.

Children in Fukushima go to school everyday risking exposure to a high level of radiation. Radioactive material inhaled through air or food could destroy our biological foundation.

Nuclear power might contribute to economic development but it will not make people happy. Humans can make nuclear plants but can't control them. Nuclear power sows the seeds of fear and uncertainty. The government that promotes nuclear power protects power companies but not the citizens.

Uranium ores are mined in the territories of indigenous peoples and their wastes are dumped near indigenous peoples' residences.

We would like our indigenous brothers and sisters to pay closer attention to the threat of nuclear power and sincerely hope that we will unite and take a step toward stopping all nuclear development.