



International Physicians
for the Prevention of Nuclear War

26 February 2016

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the entire IPPNW federation, we want to thank you for organizing your congress “5 years living with Fukushima, 30 years living with Chernobyl.” It is an especially timely and important moment to gather experts from around the world to commemorate these terrible catastrophes.

It is crucial for us to continue to examine the serious short- and long-term health, environmental, and psychosocial consequences resulting from the dreadful events that occurred at Chernobyl in 1986 and at Fukushima Daiichi in 2011. In addition, we must continue to scrutinize the policies and decisions leading up to, during, and following the disasters.

As the IPPNW Board called for in the aftermath of Fukushima, it is also essential that we continue to challenge the “inalienable right” of nations to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The myth of the “peaceful atom” involves exposing people worldwide to the risk of indiscriminate radioactive contamination at any time, provides the means for nuclear weapons proliferation, and exacerbates the danger of nuclear war. Nuclear power plants are also tempting targets for acts of war or terror.

Attempts to provide security with nuclear weapons and to meet global energy needs with nuclear power share the same flawed premise: that we can prevent the most hazardous technologies ever created by human hands from ever failing. The lesson of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is that nuclear weapons must be abolished before they abolish us. The lesson of Chernobyl and Fukushima is that we can no longer afford to roll the dice on a technology that cannot be allowed to fail, when failures now appear to be inevitable, with catastrophic consequences.

Since the earliest days of our movement, IPPNW/PSR Germany has led the effort to address the risks and health effects all along the nuclear chain, from uranium mining, to energy generation, to reprocessing and MOX production, to the deployment and use of nuclear weapons. Your congress in Berlin, and the accompanying launch of your new report, continues this tradition of leadership in our federation.

We wish you a very productive and successful congress, and we look forward to learning from your important deliberations.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel Bassey
Co-President

Vladimir Garkavenko
Co-President

Ira Helfand
Co-President

Tilman Ruff
Co-President

Bjorn Hilt
Board Chair

Michael Christ
Executive Director

