

Speech by the representative of the Fukushima Revitalization Headquarters, Yoshiyuki Ishizaki

## Speech at the opening ceremony of the Fukushima Revitalization Headquarters

January 4, 2013

I am Yoshiyuki Ishizaki. I have been appointed to serve as the representative of the Fukushima Revitalization Headquarters. I came here on January 1 and had the opportunity to witness the first sunrise of the year together with the local people. Watching the beautiful sunrise as it ascended over the ocean greatly invigorated me. During my 30 minute walk to work from my dormitory this morning, I was suddenly overcome by a fresh sense of deep remorse that again reminded me with alarming clarity that it was the failings at our nuclear power stations that led to the contamination of this area's natural environment. These feelings have filled me with the determination to make every effort to accelerate the restoration process so that all evacuees will be able to return to their homes as soon as possible.

All employees must be reminded that our industry has received a great deal of cooperation from Fukushima Prefecture originating back to the Meiji Era. This warm support has enabled our hydroelectric, thermal and nuclear power stations in Fukushima Prefecture to flourish. Unfortunately, the tragic accident that occurred has resulted in much evil being returned for good. We cannot forget this debt owed to the people of Fukushima Prefecture. This debt must and will be repaid. According to ancient Chinese tradition, this is the year of the snake. The snake is said to remember all kindness received. As a man who was born in this year, I am determined to repay Fukushima Prefecture for everything they have done for us.

During the first three days of this year, I visited the front lines of Fukushima. Ever since last year, workers at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station have put their lives on the line and have been working around the clock to protect the power station and prevent the escalation of another severe accident. Workers from not only the nuclear power sector but also other sectors such as distribution, civil engineering and construction came together to achieve restoration. I also visited Hirono Thermal Power Station. Hirono Thermal Power Station had sustained serious damage due to the Tsunami and most of our employees including our partner company workers were forced to flee to the hills. However, in spite of the danger, some workers chose to risk their lives to protect the fire engines. When I asked them what had prompted such a brave decision, I was told that they felt they had no choice as the fire engines are required for operating the thermal power station. The workers at Inawashiro Power System Office and Hamadori Power System Office also risked their lives to protect the switchyards. Ever since the accident, people from many different departments such as Sales and Real Estate Acquisition & Management have been engaged in work related to electricity rates, compensation and decontamination. I am truly grateful for all their efforts. I believe that this exemplifies the TEPCO spirit. Although the accident has resulted in seemingly irreversible consequences, we must overcome these consequences at all costs. We must come together as one and repay the people of Fukushima Prefecture for their warm and unflinching support that we have been the kind recipients of over the past 100 years.

The accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station is an event that will remain in history. Keeping this in mind, we are determined to overcome the great challenges facing us and achieve the full restoration of Fukushima so that when the ink has dried on the historical record of this event, it will stand as an inspiring testament of victory over adversity instead of defeat in the face of tragedy. In conclusion, with the TEPCO spirit and motivated by deep remorse for the afflicted, we will fulfill all of our responsibilities and achieve a full restoration to repay back the debt owed to the people of Fukushima.

Thank you very much for your time.