



Scientific and Citizen Forum on Radioprotection

Organized by IndependentWHO – Geneva May 11-12-13 2012

PRESS RELEASE

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From Chernobyl to Fukushima: how to ensure radioprotection of populations?

IndependentWHO* is organizing a 'Scientific and Citizen Forum on Radioprotection: from Chernobyl to Fukushima' on May 12, 2012 in Geneva (Switzerland). The Forum will bring together independent scientists, citizens groups, health professionals, elected officials and journalists from Japan, the Chernobyl region and elsewhere.

Why organize a forum ?

The real health consequences of Chernobyl and of all nuclear activities have been covered up. The World Health Organization (WHO), the international health authority, is subordinate to the nuclear lobby and has abdicated all responsibility in matters of radiation and health since it signed the WHA 12 40 Agreement (28/5/1959) with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This agreement prevents WHO from taking public positions which could cause prejudice to the IAEA, whose objective is the development of atomic energy in the world. Thus WHO's promise to organize a scientific forum on the health consequences of Chernobyl, made at a meeting on 02.07.2009 with representatives of the Independent WHO, still has not been acted upon despite repeated reminders.

With the Fukushima catastrophe, it is ever more urgent for citizens and independent scientists to assume responsibility together for research and information in this critical area of public health. The principal objective of the Forum is to share experience and independent scientific and medical information and to initiate citizen action aimed at ensuring true radioprotection for the world's people.

The Forum takes place on Saturday May 12 at the Oecumenical Centre, 150 route de Ferney, 1202 Geneva (detailed presentation, programme and list of speakers/moderators in annexe).

The Forum is preceded by a press conference on Friday May 11, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Swiss Press Club, Villa La Pastorale, 106 route de Ferney, 1202 Geneva.

On Sunday May 13 round-table discussions between scientists, the Vigils of IW and citizens will be held at the Maison des Associations, room Gandhi, 8, rue du Vieux-Billard, 1208 Geneva.

Side events : on Thursday April 26 (Chernobyl Day) and Friday May 11, both at 7 p.m., *avant-première* of the film VOLODARKA by Nathalie Vannereau, followed by a debate on 'Art after Chernobyl', at the Grütli, rue de Général-Dufour 16, 1204 Geneva.

***IndependentWHO (IW)** is a citizen movement set up by individuals and associations including: Brut de Béton Production; Contratom, Geneva; CRIIRAD (Commission for Independent Research and Information on Radiation) France; IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War), Switzerland; Enfants de Tchernobyl Belarus, France; Sortir du Nucléaire Network, France; Sortir du Nucléaire Loire et Vilaine; and the People's Health Movement. IW is supported by a wide coalition of NGOs. The objective of IndependentWHO is the complete independence of the World Health Organization (WHO) from the nuclear lobby and in particular the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) so that it may fulfill its constitutional mandate to "act as directing and coordinating authority" and "assist in developing an informed public opinion among all peoples" in the critically important area of radiation and health. IW calls on all citizens of the world to hold our public institutions to account and to act according to their founding principles.

The Hippocratic Vigil: Since 26 April 2007, every working day, from 8.00 till 18.00, the Hippocratic Vigils of IndependentWHO have held a permanent protest in front of the WHO headquarters in Geneva demanding that WHO fulfill its mission to bring all people to the highest possible standard of health, including in the area of radioprotection.

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