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Useful website / partner links:

NFLA: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>
Mayors for Peace: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
2020 Vision: <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>
ICAN-UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>



Former Japanese PM Naoto Kan meets members of people concerned about new nuclear build at Wylfa, Anglesey (source PAWB).

Fukushima remembered 4 years on

March 11th 2015, the 4th anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, was remembered in the UK and around the world.

As noted in the NFLA's February newsletter, it had begun with two prominent events led by the former Japanese Prime Minister, Naoto Kan, in Wales.

A major academic conference was held by the Heinrich Boll Foundation looking at the impacts and ongoing effects of the disaster. A UK Parliamentary event also included detailed presentations from politicians and leading independent experts.

In its public comment on the anniversary, NFLA

pointed out that the disaster has created over 258,000 cubic metres of radioactive waste, recent radiation spikes 70 times the 'safe' limit & 120,000 evacuees remain in temporary accommodation. Over 23,000 people in Tokyo demonstrated against reopening any nuclear power stations. The NFLA media release is on its website.

World gears up to discuss nuclear weapons / NFLA briefing

Governments and civil society are preparing for the 2015 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference at the UN in late April.

Ongoing talks over Iran's nuclear power programme provide a little optimism prior to the five yearly review conference. However, real concerns remain about potential stale-

mate on any reduction in the nuclear weapon stockpiles of the existing nuclear weapon states.

Over 50 states have signed up to the 'Austrian pledge' to fill the legal gap for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, with others likely to sign up soon.

A large Mayors for Peace delegation to the Review

Conference is planned.

Meanwhile, NFLA has developed a discussion paper over the pre & post election discussion on UK nuclear weapons and on the Trident replacement policy.

This paper, on the NFLA website, seeks to develop co-operation with groups to lobby MPs on this key issue.

**NFLA media releases
March 2015:
(On NFLA website.)**

- NFLA submit response to Governments on LLW strategy
- NFLA urges MPs to vote no for a GDF going under infrastructure planning regime
- NFLA publish briefing on small modular nuclear reactors
- On 4th anniversary of Fukushima, NFLA call for non-nuclear energy policy
- NFLA share concerns of PAC over ballooning costs at Sellafield
- NFLA submits views on the future of CORWM



Former Japanese PM Naoto Kan being interviewed by BBC Wales and ITV Wales outside the Wylfa nuclear power plant in Anglesey (source PAWB)

NFLA holds seminar on benefits of distributive energy

The NFLA English Forum and SC held a joint seminar to consider some of the issues around developing different forms of 'distributive' energy.

This includes the moves towards civic & comm.-unity energy schemes on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

A recent EPSRC study suggests, under the right policy conditions, that civic energy could produce 50% of UK energy needs by 2050.

Omar Rahim and Asif Razvi from the LG Consultancy Group provided presentations to Forum / SC members highlighting the benefits

in developing smart grids, LED lighting, anaerobic digestion, local solar and wind projects. They also considered how Councils can try to develop these projects at a time of financial austerity in local government. These presentations will be placed on the NFLA website shortly.

Irish Forum holds meeting on Sellafield, SMRs & renewables

The NFLA All Ireland Forum held its spring seminar in Newry.

The meeting looked at nuclear issues of relevance to Ireland and prospects for renewable energy on the island.

The NFLA Secretary provided an overview of the policy briefing on

Small Modular Nuclear Reactors, a project being considered in the forthcoming Irish Government White Paper on Ireland's future energy mix.

The NFLA Policy Advisor gave an overview of his report on the risks from the Sellafield plant and impacts on Ireland.

Meabh Cormacín of the Northern Ireland Renewable Industry Group and Karen Arbuckle of NI Community Energy Ltd considered the prospects for developing renewable energy in Ireland and how to garner support for it. The presentations will go on the NFLA website shortly.

NFLA submits views on future of CORWM

The NFLA Secretariat has submitted detailed views to DECC on the future of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CORWM).

The UK Government is

undertaking reviews of its advisory groups.

In its response, NFLA argue that CORWM's remit and role should be strengthened to ensure its independence.

NFLA also advocate the Swedish model of radioactive waste stakeholder engagement be considered. The full response can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA Steering Committee approves low level waste response

NFLA letters to media, March 2015: (emailed to members)

- The big questions on Sellafield need answering by the NDA and Government
- The need for a widespread energy debate in Ireland

NFLA agrees with concerns of Public Accounts Committee on Sellafield

The NFLA has issued a media release which supports the concerns of the UK Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee on ballooning costs at Sellafield.

The Annual Report of the NDA calculated a £5bn increase in the total decommissioning costs at Sellafield, to £53bn over the next century. The cost of restoring public control of Sellafield by the NDA will be £430,000.

Big nuclear policy decisions like this remain for whoever forms the next UK Government after the upcoming May election. NFLA will continue to focus on the need for significant improvement across the board.

The NFLA Steering Committee meeting on the 20th March discussed and approved a formal submission to the Joint Governments consultation on the management of low level waste (LLW).

Low level waste management in the UK is in crisis. The total amount

of forecasted levels of waste is greater than the storage capacity that is available for them.

The NFLA submission raises concern over the misuse of the waste hierarchy and long-term environmental changes putting at risk some nuclear sites and the

UK's Low Level Waste Repository in Cumbria.

The NFLA submission proposes an alternate LLW strategy based on concentration and containment rather than dilution and dispersal of waste. No new waste should also be created. The response is on the NFLA website shortly.

NFLA Secretariat publish briefing on small nuclear reactors

The NFLA has published a detailed overview on the prospects for developing Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMR).

Such developments are being put forward by the nuclear industry as a potential alternative to large-scale projects, like Hinkley Point C, that have been faltering

all over the world. It is argued they could be built much more quickly, cheaply and efficiently by the industry.

In its report, NFLA do not see any evidence of a developing supply chain, available markets or adequate financing for SMRs. No SMR has been commercialised in the

world to date, despite extensive financial support from the US Government, for example.

NFLA note significant interest in SMRs from the UK and Irish Governments. NFLA see this as a major policy error, with renewable options more cost effective. The report is on the website.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

Ypres 100 Conference on Weapons of Mass Destruction, Ypres City Hall, 22nd – 25th April.

9th NPT Review Conference, UN, New York, 28th April – 20th May.

NFLA Scotland Forum, Renfrewshire House, Paisley, 5th June.

NFLA Steering Committee, Manchester Town Hall, 19th June.

UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts & Leaders for Peace Chapter meeting, Manchester Town Hall, 19th June.

Other NFLA Forum dates to follow.