

Nuclear Problem in Wakayama

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- In 1967 Nuclear power plant issues began to emerge in Wakayama
- the municipal councils of Three districts (Hidaka, Koza and Nachikatsuura) decided to try to attract nuclear power plants to their district.
- This decision was made with no public consultation, so many people became suspicious when land was bought up.
- At that time, protests were raised, mainly by fishfolk and mothers.

Hidaka and Nachikastuura

- Local communities did not at first know anything about nuclear power plants.
- Taiji, one of the districts neighboring the two pro-nuclear districts made a resolution to oppose nuclear construction.
- People from a women's group in Taiji went to the neighboring districts to hand out leaflets explaining the dangers of nuclear power plants.
- Residents attended lectures by engineers who had studied nuclear energy in the US and ordered science journals and tried to learn as much as possible.

Hidaka and Nachikastuura

- They realized that hot waste water from nuclear plants has a severe impact on fish and the 2km area surrounding nuclear plants is extremely dangerous.
- They became strongly opposed. Especially, mothers who wanted to make sure their children could enjoy unspoilt blue sky, beautiful sea and mountain.
- They formed a group and distributed leaflets and raised funds for their activities.
- Over a period of four years, the local council resolutions changed from being pro-nuclear to anti-nuclear.

Hikigawa

- In 1976, there emerged an indirect plan to attract a nuclear power plant when the Hikigawa district local council decided to sell land it owned to Kansai Electric power Company (Kanden)
- In April of that year a request to assess the land for the construction of the plant was received, but in July there was an election and the residents managed to get an anti-nuclear mayor elected.

Hidaka

- The tension regarding the nuclear power plant was rising, the fishermen remained non-committal, not engaging in protest activities.
- In 1978, their wives, however, formed a women's group against the nuclear power plant.
- They collected 300 supporting signatures from residents of the coastal area.
- In March 1979 Three Mile Island (TMI) nuclear accident occurred.
- Under the circumstances, Hidaka Council had no choice, they had to put the nuclear plan on temporary hold.

After the TMI nuclear accident

- Anti-nuclear movement spread from just local affected areas to larger areas.
- In 1981, a Wakayama prefecture-wide group was formed. This enable all of the local group to engage in negotiations with the prefectural government to gether.
- The pro -nuclear camp was not giving up.
- In 1980, at their request the national goverment issued a saftey declaration and Hidaka Concil, using this asan endorsement, restarted activities to build a nuclear power plant.

The fishing union had problems

- wakayama Prefectural government changed its policy.
- It used to be very supportive of the Three principles on nuclear power plants which are to ensure safety, location suitability and agreement of residents.
- The fishing union incident started when it was revealed that it was in debt of close to 1 billion yen due to dubious financial dealings.
- It was also revealed that kanDen had deposited 300 million yen in the Fishing Union's bank account.

Hidaka and KanDen

- KanDen set up offices near the candidate sites and every day three to five employees would make individual visits in the town to convince people that the nuclear power plant would be good idea.
- They also offered residents all expenses- paid trips to observe nuclear power plants in other prefectures.
- In the name of ' stable electricity supply ' in the energy crisis the national, and prefectural government, together with the KanDen tried to destroy community democracy.
- But the anti- nuclear fishermen in Hidaka managed to weather these storms and protect the sea.

Wakayama Governor

- At the beginning of 1986 the Wakayama Governor announced the results of the prefectural nuclear power research project team.
- A pamphlet was put together to advertise nuclear power as useful to promote the local economy and industries.
- In answer to the prefecture's 'rose colored pamphlet' the anti-nuclear citizen's group printed 3000 pamphlets titled 'When the roses die: the dreams and realities of nuclear power'

The Chernobyl nuclear accident happend.

- In 1986 The Chernobly nuclear accident happend.
- It seemed that wakayama's rose- colored pamhlet was completed but it was never distributed.
- However, Hikigawa ansd Hidaka were quick to endorse the construction of a nuclear power plant.
- In january, the governor announced that ' Japanese nuclear reactors are safe' and that he supported theconstruction od a nuclear palnt in Wakayama in order to stimulate the economy.
- Even though the rest of the world was reconsidering their nuclear programs, wakayama was moving full speed ahead towards nuclear.

Hikigawa and Hidaka

- In 1988, 2 years after Chernobyl, The fishing union was forced to hold its annual general meeting.
- Fishermen, unfazed by the money, courageously refused to agree to the survey.
- It was the boundless strength of the fishermen, who had been fighting the nuclear plant for more than 20 years, which made their campaign before the AGM possible.
- Women managed to get the majority of the residents to sign a petition.
- More than 20 years struggle was brought to a successful conclusion.

The land which had been bought to build the nuclear power plant became a park

