



*Isabel Pichler, September 14, 2012:*

## **The government's NEW strategy: No nuclear power by 2030's -**

Peoples!

One year and a half have passed since the Fukushima disaster and thanks to all protesters and activists the Japanese anti-nuclear movement did grow and grow!!

Protests against nuclear power have been organized and held all over Japan and protesters have been gathering in front of the Prime Minister's Office and protesting against the restart of nuclear power plants.

Finally, Japan's government said on Wednesday, it intends to stop using nuclear power by the 2030s, marking a major shift from policy goals set before last year's Fukushima disaster that sought to increase the share of atomic energy to more than half of electricity supply.

In abandoning atomic power, Japan aims to triple the share of renewable power to 30 percent of its energy mix, but will remain a top importer of oil, coal and gas for the foreseeable future.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's unpopular government, which could face an election this year, had faced intense lobbying from industries to maintain atomic energy and also concerns from its major ally, the United States, which supplied it with nuclear technology in the 1950s.

All but two of Japan's nuclear 50 reactors are idled for safety checks and the government plans to allow restarts of units taken off line after the disaster if they are deemed safe by a new atomic regulator.

Japan's growing anti-nuclear movement, which wants an immediate end to the use of atomic power, is certain to oppose any such proposal to secure electricity supplies by restarting reactors.

A shift from nuclear means Japan should remain the world's biggest importer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and third-largest purchaser of oil to feed its power stations. Japan is also likely to increase reliance on coal.

The decision to stop nuclear energy by 2030's seems to be good, but the new strategy also seems lacking in key details.

What we all want to know is what the government is going to do with the restarting reactors!?

Well, Noda's decision won't probably resolve fierce debate over whether reducing atomic power's role will do more harm or good to the economy.

And with Noda's Democratic Party expected to lose the general election, there is no guarantee that the next government would stand by the policy.

But for the moment, I really wanna say THANK YOU and WELL DONE to ALL PROTESTERS!!

NEVER GIVE UP!