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Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda

Minister of Finance Jun Azumi

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Michihiko Kano

NGO Statement

2.28 billion tax should be used for recovery of the affected area,
but not unwanted whaling in SO.

Oct 21st 2011, the cabinet agreed the additional annual budget and made the budget public. This additional annual budget is aiming to rebuild and help the affected area and people from the triple disaster on March 11. However, one of the requests that Fisheries Agency put titled as “Measures to stabilize the scientific whaling research program” was aiming “to conduct scientific whaling in Southern Ocean according to the original plan,” thus has no link to the recovery plan of the affected area.

News has reported that the whaling program was suffering from 1.9 billion yen debt with over all project cost being 3 billion yen in the last Feb. If this additional 2.28 billion yen is to be spent under the additional budget aiming for recovery of the affected area, it is unavoidable that the people think the government with the vested interest is prolonging the dying whaling program with tax payers money.

Japan has been offered various helps from governments, non-governmental organizations, and private sectors all over the world. Yet, the government caused serious problems by releasing massive radiation to the sea. If we are spending our tax to the whaling program that has not been understood by the global community, the global community will have a serious doubt in terms of the attitude and seriousness of the Japanese government on recovery plan. Even, the global community might think their assistance was returned with offensive manners.

We demand that the additional budget of 2.28 billion yen to be used for priority projects that actually helps the affected people and region of the coastal area.

(Original statement written in Japanese)