

29 avril 2011, « True cost outweighs benefit » (Le vrai coût surpasse le bénéfice) mot de Marc Humbert publié par *The Daily Yomiuri* (quotidien japonais en anglais lié au quotidien japonais Yomiuri Shimbun).

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**Le vrai coût surpasse le bénéfice**

## **True cost outweighs benefit**

To make decisions about nuclear power plants, we must assess their value. Some people try to balance benefits and costs and find they are of great value: They offer huge quantities of clean electricity at lower cost than any other method. How was this “lower” cost calculated for Fukushima?

It did not include the cost of controls and work not implemented by TEPCO. It did not include pro-

visions for failures. The amount should include the trillions of yen necessary to compensate for material losses and to relocate people from the evacuation zone.

And last but not least: How did TEPCO value the unit of human life? A far too high number of unknown people will have their DNA corrupted by radioactivity and will die in the coming years from cancer and other diseases. Thus the cost is far higher than that of any other method. This cost is so high that Fukushima—like any nuclear plant—has a negative value, with no means to say how much. No benefit can compensate for its cost.

So Japan should get rid of nuclear plants as soon as possible. How?

1) Reduce energy consumption: It can give great results without loss of good life.

2) Use any other kind of plants until new energy production capacity is available.

3) Limit nuclear plants in operation as far as possible in number and in time, as in Germany.

4) Invest massively in people and in research and development to improve clean renewable energy supplies.

5) Launch international cooperation, as this is not a Japanese issue but a United Nations issue.

6) Start to rebuild Japan, mobilizing the people on a new sound target: To equip the nation with what the philosopher Ivan Illich called “tools for conviviality” in his 1973 book of that title.

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