

Oct 27, 2011

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda

Minister of Finance Jun Azumi

Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Michihiko Kano

NGO Statement

**Don' t waste 2.28 billion yen on whaling in the Southern Ocean -
Use the money for Tohoku regeneration and disaster victim support!**

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

According to media reports, the whaling program last February was 1.9 billion yen in debt, with overall projected cost being 3 billion yen. If this additional 2.28 billion yen is to be spent on research whaling, it sends a signal to the Japanese people that their government’s vested interest is in prolonging the dying whaling program with tax payers money.

After the March disaster, Japan has received various assistance and aid from governments, non-governmental organizations and private sectors from all over the world. Yet, the Japanese government created serious problems by releasing massive radiation into the sea. If we are to spend our tax on the whaling program that is not supported by many countries, the global community will have a serious doubt in Japanese government and the nature of its recovery plan. It may even appear to the world that their assistance and favor is 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 coastal areas.

IFAW Japan office
Choice for the future
Citizens Against Chemicals Pollution
Ramsar Network Japan
Japan's Environmental Lawyers Federation
A life in Viable Environment(ALIVE)
Japan Tiger and Elephant Fund(JTEF)
Save the Dugong Campaign Center
Association for Protection of Marine Communities
Biodiversity Information Box
Orcalab Support society
Shachi.jp
Greenpeace Japan
IKAN

Latin America Supporting Organizations (10groups as of Nov.4th)

NGOs from Central and South America showed support for the Japanese NGOs and their statement protesting the substantial amount of national supplementary budget being allocated to research whaling.

Fundación Marybio (Argentina)
Instituto de Conservación de Ballenas (Argentina)
A.U.P.L.A (Uruguay)
Centro Ecoceanos (Chile)
Coalición CEFU (Chile)
Centro de Conservación Cetacea (Chile)
Anima Naturalis (International)
Mangrove Action Project (International)
Alerta Isla Riesco (Chile)
Selva Vida Sin Fronteras (Ecuador)

These groups from the Latin countries have been supporting, not the handful of people that benefit from whaling, but the many low income local coastal communities that are making their living with whale watching. They uniformly oppose Japanese whaling vessels traveling all the way to Antarctic Sea to conduct "research whaling."