

---

**Remarks by the Executive Secretary  
of the Preparatory Commission for the  
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization**

**Mr. Tibor Tóth**

**Commemoration Ceremony of the Great Japan Earthquake**

**Monday 12 March, 2012  
Vienna International Center**

---

Ambassador Ozawa,  
Director-General Fedotov,  
Director General Amano,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Dear Friends

This ceremony in commemoration of the complex disaster of March 2011 serves as a day of remembrance of the victims. Some twenty thousand people lost their lives that day from the earthquake and the ensuing Tsunami

This was a truly momentous tragedy. But as if this wasn't enough, the waves ravaged the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, causing the core of reactors to meltdown, contaminating both the atmosphere and the sea. The complex disaster shattered the lives of tens of thousands who lost their loved ones or their homes. It is estimated that some

100,000 people cannot return to their homes in that area. Certain parts of the region will remain uninhabitable for long decades to come. It will take long decades as well to ensure the safe decommissioning of the reactors. And it will take much longer to heal all the psychological and emotional wounds. This is a very heavy burden for any one people to carry.

The tragedy touched us all, no matter where we were, no matter what we thought and no matter what we believed. The sorrow and grief touched each and every one on our planet. Our commemoration today is a deserving tribute to all those who have lost their lives or their homes. It is also a tribute to the Japanese people and authorities who have had to deal with one of the worst combination of a natural and a man-made disaster in recent history. And I cannot imagine a more fitting tribute to the victims than the tribute to the future: Hang on Japan! Ganbare Nippon!

Now imagine what would be the consequence of the use of nuclear weapons? The human mind cannot really grasp the utterly destructive aftermath of such an event.

Today, there is an emerging consensus that the only real way to reduce the nuclear threat is to prevent their proliferation, to prevent that they fall in the hands of terrorists and to bring to zero both the number and utility of nuclear weapons.

While we remember the victims of the complex disaster of March last year, let us seriously look much beyond Fukushima and Japan. But before looking to the future we have to look into the past: had everything been put in place to prevent the preventable. Were all the lessons learned what should had been learned.

And only answering this question earnestly we can look to the future. Then we can and we must say: Let us take all the steps that are needed, not just doing the doable based on the so-called realities of the day. Let us take all the steps that are needed to prevent the preventable. Let us take all the steps that are needed to prevent future tragedies stemming be it from nuclear weapons or from the unsafe, unsecure or unsafeguarded use of nuclear energy. This would be the right remembrance of the victims of 11 March 2011.