The United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan)
International Conference on the East Japan Disaster

Background

Two years have passed since the East Japan Disaster deprived the lives of 15,000 people and forced 320,000 people to be displaced.

The United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan), hereafter Kyodan, is deeply grateful for the financial support that was given to us for our humanitarian activities from all over the world. With those support, the Kyodan is able to continue relief activities based in three volunteer centers in Tohoku region. It has provided support for reconstruction of the affected churches, as well as conducted the programs to deal with radioactive pollution with installing air-conditioners at the church related kindergartens and nursery schools, providing grants for purchasing radiation measuring instruments, and holding retreat camps for the children in Fukushima.

However, it is apparent that the effect of radioactive contamination caused by the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Disaster is still ongoing, and the support for those who are living under such uneasy circumstances is still way behind.

Moreover, we must recognize that the blame for us to bring such a catastrophic situation of radioactive contamination into the air, land, and sea is irremissible, all the more because Japan is the only nation to have ever experienced nuclear devastation. Also, we, as a church, must repent our sin to be swayed by the myth of the nuclear safety and oppose to the over-dependent on technology and the self-deceiving tendency on safety and risk management.

Therefore, the Kyodan has issued “official statement on the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Disaster” under the name of the moderator in March 2012 and March 2013. As we see the third anniversary on March 11, 2014, come around, the Kyodan has decided to hold the
international conference in Sendai with support from Tohoku Gakuin University, which has earnestly implemented relief activities.

**Information Overview**

**Name:** International Conference on the East Japan Disaster

**Theme:** Against the Myth of the Safety of Nuclear Energy  
–The Fundamental question from Fukushima

**Memorial Lecture:** Dr. Sang-jung Kang, professor of Seigakuin University

**Keynote Lecture:** Dr. Susumu Shimazono, professor of Sophia University

**Theological Lecture:** Dr. Katsuhiko Kondo, former president of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary

**Date:** Tuesday, March 11 – Friday, March 14, 2014

**Venue:** Tohoku Gakuin University(Tsuchitoi Campus, Sendai city)

**Sponsor:** The United Church of Christ in Japan

**Supporter:** Tohoku Gakuin University