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Writers pledge to step up calls for nuclear phase-out

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By DAISUKE SHIMIZU/ Staff Writer

Four prominent writers including Nobel laureate Kenzaburo Oe say they will step up their demand that Japan pulls the plug on nuclear power.

Speaking at a news conference in Tokyo on Jan. 10, Oe said the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is "fundamentally wrong" in seeking to restart idled reactors and resume the reliance on nuclear energy.

Also present were journalist Satoshi Kamata, writer Hisae Sawachi and writer Keiko Ochiai.

Ochiai denounced those who support the reliance on nuclear power.

"Are they ready to deceive their own lives and those of people yet to be born, under this talk of 'prosperity' and 'peaceful' use?" she said.

The four--and other activists--are co-founders of a civil advocacy group, the "Citizen's Committee for a 10-Million-People Petition to Say Goodbye to Nuclear Power Plants."

They said the group would present to the government a five-point action plan at a rally in Tokyo's Meiji Park scheduled for March 9.

It will include the timely scrapping of existing nuclear reactors, a ban on the construction of new units and an all-out push to develop the generation of power from renewable sources.

By DAISUKE SHIMIZU/ Staff Writer