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International Transport Workers' Federation
Federación Internacional de los Trabajadores del Transporte
Fédération internationale des ouvriers du transport
Internationella Transportarbetarefederationen
Internationale Transportarbeiter-Föderation
Международная федерация транспортников
التنظيم عالميا، النضال من أجل حقوقنا

March 14, 2011

On behalf of the International Transport Workers' Federation and the Australian Transport Union Federation, I would like to express my sincere condolences to the Japanese people following the recent earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

It was just last month that many Japanese ITF affiliates relayed their deep sympathy and support for the residents affected by the Queensland cyclone and flooding.

The President of All Japan Dockworkers Union Mr Itoya and General Secretary Mr Watanabe pledged money to me personally in Tokyo for the appeal.

The generosity and support of Japanese transport workers, dockworkers and seafarers and their expressions of sympathy and support for victims of the Queensland disaster underscores not only their strength of character but also the values of the international union movement.

I will be holding urgent meetings with ITF General Secretary David Cockroft in London this week regarding ITF relief funding and other forms of support to look at ways we can assist Japanese transport workers, their families and others affected.

The ITF understands the huge task ahead to rebuild those parts of Japan.

ITF workers worldwide are understandably very concerned for the welfare of Japanese maritime and transport workers and their families and others affected by the disaster.

On behalf of the ITF, I take this opportunity to extend our most heartfelt concerns for the Japanese people suffering from the devastating effects of the recent earthquake.

We wish all of the Japanese nation and its workers well in the following months and years as you seek to rebuild your lives and we in particular extend the hand of international solidarity and support to our brothers and sisters.

As unions representing transport workers, seafarers and dockworkers we know all too well the dangers inherent in our workplaces and I would like to pass on our members' best wishes and thoughts at this difficult time.

If there is anything we can do by way of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Paddy Crumlin
President, International Transport Workers' Federation
National Secretary, Maritime Union of Australia