

## 13<sup>th</sup> MaxiMarathon Held in Kyoto

On November 4, the World Council of Nuclear Workers (WONUC) and the International Institute for Sustainable Peace (IISP), a non-profit organization (NPO), held an approximately 110-km relay-style race from Kyoto city to Takahama Town in Fukui Prefecture, the site of the Takahama NPS of the Kansai Electric Power Co. (KANSAI EP). Upon reaching their destination, the runners also brought their message of the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy to the children of Takahama.

This was the 13<sup>th</sup> time that the so-called MaxiMarathon was held, and the first time it has ever been run in Asia. The first MaxiMarathon was conducted in 1996, with runners making their way across the approximately 300-km distance from Paris to Brussels.

Around 90 runners participated in the race this time from nine countries – Japan, France, Russia, Switzerland, Spain, Germany, Lithuania, Hungary, and South Korea – with more than 60 coming from overseas. That fact reaffirmed the character of the race as a venue for people engaged in the nuclear industry worldwide to get together.



Also, the marathon course followed the old “Western Mackerel Road” that runs from Kyoto to Takahama Town, and upon which seafood caught in the Wakasa Region (along the Sea of Japan coast north of Kyoto) was carried to Kyoto

(Japan’s imperial capital for 1,074 years to 1868) ever since the Nara Era (710-94) onward. Now the nature of the goods being transported to Kyoto has been changed, with nuclear energy being supplied in the form of electricity.

*Editor: Mio Kimuro, JAIF*