



Scuola Italiana di Studi  
sull'Asia Orientale  
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# 2016 KYOTO LECTURES

Wednesday, December 7th, 18:00h

Arnaud Vaulerin SPEAKER

## Voices from the Fukushima nuclear village

Since March 2011 and the beginning of the nuclear disaster in Japan, nearly 50,000 men from all over Japan have worked in the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant run by Tokyo Electric Power Company. If Tepco and the major Japanese conglomerate firms were the main suppliers in the beginning, a myriad of subcontracting companies, organized in a vast pyramid, are now the main providers of workers on a huge construction site which will last at least for the next forty years.

Who are these men? What are they doing? Why did they decide to work on a contaminated place and in a desolated region? What kind of threats and dangers are they facing? What is the place for these "gypsies" in the Japanese nuclear village? Arnaud Vaulerin spent two years trying to understand their reasons in an environment where secrecy and silence prevail.

Even if Fukushima is not Chernobyl, the accident that occurred five years ago is not only a Japanese crisis but a global challenge for our societies. It reveals how our countries and industries have built their dependency on nuclear power, and also shows the weakness of our democracies.

Arnaud Vaulerin is the Asian correspondent for the French daily newspaper *Libération*, based in Japan. As a reporter traveling mainly in Asia and Europe (Balkans, Italy), he has been working on ethnic, migrant, politics and post-war situation issues for nearly twenty years. With Isabelle Wesselingh, he wrote a book on Bosnia in 2003: *Bosnia, Raw Memory*, a long reportage on reconciliation, international justice and refugees greeted by *The Economist* and the *New York Review of Books*. In Japan since 2012, here he has been focussing on Japanese society and politics to understand how this country in crisis tries to reinvent itself.

**This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room 1, 1st floor).**

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