

Statement

3/20/2020

Kaoru Hashimoto

1. I was born and raised in the house next to my current home. After graduating from junior college, I began working for Japan Airlines, first at Haneda Airport and later at Narita Airport, prompting me to move to Funabashi, Chiba in 1978. After getting married and having children, my parents asked me to live near them, and so I built my current house next to my parents' and moved here with my family.
2. My house is on a verge of a cliff about 50 meters high. There are only about 2 meters between the cliff and the house, and the cliff hasn't been fortified with concrete. The area is overgrown with trees and grass, and the slope is quite steep - about 70 or 80 degrees. The back of my parents' similarly faces a steep cliff. When I was in elementary school, the cliff behind my parents' house collapsed, and the storeroom between the house and the cliff was destroyed by the collapsed sediment. The government repaired the cliffs behind my parents' house and constructed a concrete wall, but the wall does not extend to the area behind my current house.
3. Because of its topography, the area has been designated as a "steep slope collapse danger zone," "sediment disaster warning area (steep slope)" and "earthquake disaster warning area (debris flow)." At the end of January 2020, the local government office announced that they would hold a briefing for residents on the results of an investigation on matters related to sediment-related disaster warning areas. This was the first time that this kind of announcement regarding sediment disasters came from the government office. Our area had long been designated as a danger zone, but I think the decision to conduct the investigation came due to the influence of recent heavy rain.
4. When typhoons and heavy rain continued, I became very worried that the rain could cause the mountain behind my house to collapse. Sometimes, water flows from the mountain to the grounds of the house, and the drainage outlet on the road in front of our house overflows and floods from rainwater coming from the mountain, which forms a small pond that doesn't subside for several days.
5. Recently in Japan, typhoons and heavy rain are always causing significant damage. During recent storms, the sound of tapping the roof feels stronger than before, and seeing on the news the recent

heavy rains in Kumamoto and the damage caused by Typhoon No. 15 in Chiba, I am seriously concerned that I may be the next one to experience such damage.

6. I first heard about the plans for the Yokosuka coal thermal power plant early in 2018 from a friend living in an apartment in front of the power plant. With such extreme weather occurring in Japan and throughout the world, it is unthinkable to build a coal thermal power plant that emits large amounts of carbon dioxide responsible for climate change. Each and every one of us must take action to prevent further damage from climate change. I decided to take part in this lawsuit because I believed it necessary to stop the construction of the coal-fired power plant planned for this area.

(Photo taken by Proxy for the Plaintiff Akito Kubota, 2/26/2020: Showing the proximity of the house to the cliff)

