

Earthquake Report - JAIF

We have been reporting a status of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station by summarizing news aired by NHK, which is Japanese national broadcasting company. We regard it as most credible news among many news sources and we are happy to say that NHK's English website has gotten enriched and now you can see movies and English scripts at <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/daily/english/society.html>. Given this situation, we decide to simply place these scripts as it is for the record in case that it will be deleted from the website later, rather than summarizing news as we did.

No. 121: 18:00, June 23

NHK news regarding status of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station yesterday and today.

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **Improper water flow blamed for filter failure**
- **Water filters at Fukushima still not working**
- **Plant decontamination not working**
- **Work begins inside No.2 reactor building**

(Other news)

- **IAEA criticizes Japan's nuclear data sharing**
- **Researchers simulate Fukushima radiation spread**
- **Review of nuclear safety guidelines begins**
- **Anti-nuclear conference to be held in Fukushima**
- **No initial information on accident reached 6 towns**

Earthquake Report - JAIF

● Improper water flow blamed for filter failure

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has resumed testing a water decontamination system after making repairs to improve the flow of the water.

Tokyo Electric Power Company has been testing the system to filter highly radioactive wastewater that has been accumulating at the plant.

The utility discovered on Wednesday that a US-made device in the system only succeeded in lowering the concentration of radioactive cesium in the water to 1 percent of the previous amount, instead of to 0.1 percent as initially expected.

Contaminated water was supposed to pass through 3 absorbent chambers. But it was found that some water passed through only one chamber, because "open" and "shut" indications on a valve had been incorrect.

The utility inspected all the valves and resumed test runs early on Thursday.

TEPCO began full-scale operation of the decontamination system last Friday, but it was stopped after only 5 hours.

Thursday, June 23, 2011 12:35 +0900 (JST)

● Water filters at Fukushima still not working

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is still struggling with a malfunctioning water-decontaminator---the key to dealing with highly-radioactive water accumulating at the site.

The new water decontaminating system was shut down only 5 hours after it went into operation on Friday.

Tokyo Electric Power Company says an irregular flow of the water in the system could have hampered the system from working properly, causing it to malfunction.

The utility says it discovered on Wednesday that a US-made device in the system only succeeded in lowering the concentration of radioactive cesium in the water to one percent of the previous amount, instead of 0.1 percent as initially expected.

The device has 6 absorbent chambers lined up in a row.

The utility says radioactive readings in the lower chambers surged to 15 millisieverts per hour on Wednesday from 3 millisieverts per hour on Tuesday.

This occurred even though dosages in the lower chambers should have remained low, compared with those higher up where most of the filtering was supposed to have occurred.

It says this suggests that the problem could have been caused by the uneven flow of water through the chambers.

It says it will continue to try and identify the cause of the problem so that it can begin operating the system as soon as possible before the water begins to overflow from the facilities, which are almost full.

Thursday, June 23, 2011 06:11 +0900 (JST)

Earthquake Report - JAIF

●Plant decontamination not working

The Tokyo Electric Power Company is looking into why a system for decontaminating radioactive water at the Fukushima Daiichi plant is not working as expected, delaying resumption of the system's full-scale operation.

The firm on Wednesday published data showing the amount of radioactive materials that had been removed from contaminated water during a test run of the US-made system.

The data show that density of Cesium-13 and Cesium-137 dropped to only one-100th of initial levels.

An earlier test run using water with a lower density of radioactivity showed a drop to about one-1000th.

The utility had said the system would begin full-scale operation in a couple of days.

TEPCO on Tuesday began reducing the amount of cooling water injected into the plant's No. 1 to 3 reactors and is carefully monitoring changes in their temperatures.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 21:13 +0900 (JST)

●Work begins inside No.2 reactor building

The operator of the damaged Fukushima nuclear plant reports considerable lessening of humidity at the Number 2 reactor but radioactivity remains high in some parts of the building.

Extreme humidity was one of the factors hampering work inside the reactor building. The humidity level stood at 99.9 percent until Sunday when the Tokyo Electric Power Company opened the doors to lower the level after filtering radioactive air inside.

On Wednesday afternoon, workers found humidity levels inside the building to be between 46 and 65 percent.

Following the findings, they began fixing a water gauge and installing surveillance cameras on the ground floor.

High radiation levels were measured at some spots on the second floor. In one area readings came in at 97.2 millisieverts per hour, compared 15 to 60 millisieverts per hour on the ground floor.

Wastewater contaminated with nuclear material was 6.1 meters deep in the basement, with surface radiation levels between 388 and 430 millisieverts per hour.

Work on the second floor was scheduled to start on Thursday but was postponed because of the high radiation levels there.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 18:41 +0900 (JST)

Earthquake Report - JAIF

●IAEA criticizes Japan's nuclear data sharing

Participants at a closed door session of the International Atomic Energy Agency have agreed to set up an international mechanism to share information in the event of nuclear emergencies.

The IAEA held the ministerial meeting on Wednesday to assess Japan's response to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in March.

A Japanese official quoted an expert from the World Meteorological Organization as saying the group was unable to obtain necessary information from Japan. He said this led to difficulties in projecting how radioactive materials would spread around the world.

The official said other member countries also criticized Japan's initial emergency response. They said they could not fully explain to their nationals what was happening as Japan failed to release detailed information immediately after the accident.

The participants agreed that if an emergency occurs, the IAEA should promptly obtain information on what radioactive substances escaped into the environment and how much. They also agreed that crucial information will be shared among member countries through a new mechanism.

After the session, a Japanese Cabinet Office adviser told reporters that he recognized the importance of continuing to release information.

Thursday, June 23, 2011 08:23 +0900 (JST)

●Researchers simulate Fukushima radiation spread

A group of Japanese researchers have created a computer simulation of how radioactive substances from the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant spread across the globe.

Researchers at the University of Tokyo and Kyushu University on Wednesday released images of the simulation using a forecast system for air pollution and yellow sand.

The simulation was based on the scenario in which contaminated air was vented from the crippled No.2 reactor building on March 14th, 3 days after the massive earthquake and tsunami.

The simulation shows some of the radioactive material was carried 5,000 meters into the air by ascending currents of a low-pressure system that passed near Japan the next day.

Computer images show the substances were then carried by westerly winds and spread over the Pacific Ocean.

The images indicate that on the 4th day after being vented the substances reached the west coast of the United States, and on the 7th day they approached Iceland after crossing the Atlantic.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 22:01 +0900 (JST)

Earthquake Report - JAIF

●Review of nuclear safety guidelines begins

Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission has started reviewing its safety guidelines. The current guidelines showed a lack of readiness for the emergency at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

18 experts in nuclear power, radioactivity and law attended the meeting in Tokyo on Wednesday.

The commission's chairperson, Haruki Madarame, admitted that, from international perspective, the existing guidelines lacked countermeasures for accidents, such as the latest one.

The existing guidelines state that a long-term power failure can be disregarded, despite the fact that this is exactly what led to the present crisis at the Fukushima plant.

The guidelines also plan for evacuation only within a small area, about 8 to 10 kilometers away from a nuclear power plant. They assume a broad scale of evacuation will not be necessary, but that is not the case currently.

One attendee pointed to the guidelines' failure to assume the loss of all equipment, while another said the current guidelines may have ignored technological innovations concerning safety.

The commission is to discuss revisions taking into account international safety standards being discussed among member nations of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Madarame said exhaustive analysis will be necessary to restructure the guidelines drastically. He hopes to reach agreement on specific measures in certain areas soon and revise other parts over the long term.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 21:28 +0900 (JST)

●Anti-nuclear conference to be held in Fukushima

The Japan Congress against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs plans to host an international anti-nuclear conference next month in Fukushima Prefecture, site of the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

The group says the prefectural capital of Fukushima will be one of the venues for its annual world conference. The conference will also be held in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Okinawa.

The Fukushima conference, scheduled for July 31st, will include lectures by survivors of the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Discussions on nuclear power generation will also be held. Participants are scheduled to stage a march to call for the suspension or abolishment of nuclear power.

The secretary general of the organization, Yasunari Fujimoto, says he hopes the conference will help lead to a society where nuclear power is abolished by national consensus. He added that priorities should be given to people's lives, not to the economy.

Another anti-nuclear group, the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, also plans to discuss the eradication of nuclear power at its world

Earthquake Report - JAIF

conference in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August.

A third group, the Japan Confederation of Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs Sufferers Organizations, says it will also promote its campaign against nuclear power generation.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 19:41 +0900 (JST)

●No initial information on accident reached 6 towns

Six of 10 municipalities around the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant say they received no evacuation information from the central and local governments just after the March 11th nuclear accident.

NHK asked the 10 municipalities under evacuation orders in Fukushima Prefecture whether they were given information on how and where to evacuate their residents immediately after the crisis began.

The central and local governments are required to give such information to relevant municipalities when serious accidents take place at nuclear plants.

The plant's operator, the Tokyo Electric Power Company, was also required to tell 5 nearby municipalities what was happening at the plant, but did not do so properly.

One of the municipalities, Okuma Town, received 80 fax messages from the utility, while another, Namie Town, received none.

Namie says the lack of information caused delays in making evacuation calls and securing shelters, resulting in confusion.

The central government, Fukushima Prefecture and the company say they tried to contact the municipalities in various ways but failed, possibly due to communication disruptions caused by the massive earthquake.

They say they plan to improve their communications capability.

Wednesday, June 22, 2011 18:34 +0900 (JST)

End