

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. 155: 12:00, July 27

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

● **TEPCO seeks new ways to reduce contaminated water**

(Other news)

● **Nuclear plants urged to brace for biggest tsunami**

● **FSC shows intake benchmark of 100 millisieverts**

● **Crown Prince and Princess visit Fukushima**

● **Santa visits children at shelter in Japan**

● **Govt seeking voluntary ban on compost and humus**

● **Kan: Japan needs national nuclear energy debate**

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●TEPCO seeks new ways to reduce contaminated water

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has begun looking for new ways to reduce the amount of contaminated water that is hampering efforts to stabilize the damaged reactors.

Tokyo Electric Power Company sent a remote-controlled robot into the No.3 reactor building on Tuesday to take photos of the piping and measure radiation levels.

TEPCO decided to use the robot to find methods of cooling the nuclear fuel in the first 3 reactors with less water.

The utility injects about 390 tons of water into the reactors every day, but most of it becomes contaminated with radioactive materials.

TEPCO says the temperature of the No.3 reactor is relatively stable, but it needs more water than the others because of leaks and other problems.

Reducing the volume of contaminated water is the key to putting the reactors under control, but a system for treating radioactive water has been hit by a series of troubles.

TEPCO hopes to eventually send workers into the buildings to pour water directly onto the reactors.

Wednesday, July 27, 2011 08:27 +0900 (JST)

●Nuclear plants urged to brace for biggest tsunami

A senior member of a Japanese government council on disaster preparedness says nuclear plants must prepare for the biggest possible tsunami, no matter how small the likelihood of such an event.

Kansai University Professor Yoshiaki Kawata, who heads the council's survey team, briefed the Nuclear Safety Commission on the council's new tsunami measures on Tuesday.

Kawata said a nuclear plant that Chugoku Electric Power Company plans to build by the Seto Inland Sea could be at risk. He cited new findings that a past massive earthquake in the Pacific off central to southwestern Japan sent tsunami waves into the sea.

Kawata also cited old documents that say a tsunami hit Wakasa Bay in Fukui Prefecture after an earthquake about 400 years ago. Thirteen nuclear reactors are located by the bay in the Sea of Japan.

Kawata said even an inland quake could send earth and sand crashing into the sea, triggering a tsunami.

He said the impact of an accident caused by failure to prepare for the biggest possible tsunami would be enormous.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 17:03 +0900 (JST)

●FSC shows intake benchmark of 100 millisieverts

A government food safety panel has recommended that safeguard measures be implemented to limit cumulative radiation exposure during a person's lifetime to no more than 100 millisieverts.

The working group at the Food Safety Commission, which was set up at the

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request of the health ministry, released its report on Tuesday.

The report says more than 100 millisieverts of exposure and radioactive intake during a lifetime could increase the risk of developing cancer and other conditions.

The amount does not include radiation a person receives naturally.

The report also pointed out the vulnerability of children, who have greater risks of developing thyroid cancer, leukemia and other illnesses than adults do. But it did not give clear guidelines on setting standards for children, citing a lack of research.

In the wake of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear crisis, the government set its provisional radioactivity safety limits on foodstuff such as meat, and vegetable.

The health ministry and other agencies are expected to review the provisional limits based on Tuesday's report.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 19:15 +0900 (JST)

●Crown Prince and Princess visit Fukushima

Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako have visited Fukushima, one of the prefectures hardest hit by the March 11th disaster, and home to the damaged nuclear power plant.

The couple arrived by train at Koriyama Station on Tuesday afternoon. This was their second visit to one of the disaster-stricken areas, following a trip to Miyagi Prefecture in early June.

Fukushima Governor Yuhei Sato was on hand to brief them on the damage caused by the tsunami and earthquake.

The Crown Prince and Princess later visited a facility in Koriyama City, where about 250 people are sheltering after evacuating from the 20-kilometer no-entry zone around the damaged plant and surrounding areas.

The couple talked to each of the evacuees who are all facing a hard time, living away from their homes for more than 4 months.

One woman shed tears, while speaking to the Crown Prince about her daughter who died in the tsunami.

The Crown Prince said he was very sorry and told her to take care of herself.

The Crown Princess talked to an 83-year-old man who is sheltering with his wife. She said she hopes they will return to their home soon and encouraged him to keep healthy.

The couple visited about 300 temporary houses next to the shelter and asked about people about their lives there and offered them words of encouragement.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 18:58 +0900 (JST)

●Santa visits children at shelter in Japan

Santa Claus has made an unseasonable visit to Japan to encourage children affected by the March 11th disaster.

Santa arrived from Finland at a shelter in Saitama Prefecture, north of Tokyo, on Tuesday. Residents of Futaba Town in Fukushima Prefecture have been staying at the shelter after the nuclear power plant accident.

About 50 children cheered when Santa arrived and handed them presents.

The visit was arranged by Japanese mothers living in Finland.

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A Finnish airline covered the airfare for the trip, and a confectionery maker provided the children's presents.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 18:16 +0900 (JST)

●Govt seeking voluntary ban on compost and humus

Japan's government is calling on farmers not to use or sell compost and humus made in the east of the country since the start of the Fukushima nuclear crisis.

Radioactive cesium exceeding the government's permissible levels has been found in rice straw sold by dealers in Miyagi and other prefectures.

The agriculture ministry wants a voluntary ban on the use and sale of compost made of manure from cows that may have been fed the contaminated straw. The measure also applies to humus from fallen leaves.

The ministry says the ban should continue until it draws up guidelines for levels of radioactive cesium in compost.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 15:57 +0900 (JST)

●Kan: Japan needs national nuclear energy debate

Prime Minister Naoto Kan has told the visiting head of the International Atomic Energy Agency that Japan needs to have a broad national debate about reducing its reliance on nuclear power.

Kan met IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano in Tokyo on Tuesday, one day after Amano visited the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Amano said the IAEA can help Japan with its expertise and experience in radiation decontamination, handling of melted reactor cores and extraction of spent nuclear fuel rods.

Kan said Japan has completed the first stage of bringing the Fukushima nuclear disaster under control, and is moving on to the second phase. He said that Japan wants to cooperate fully with the IAEA.

Referring to his recent call for Japan to reduce its reliance on nuclear energy, Kan said the country needs to hold a wide public debate on the issue.

On July 13th, the prime minister told a news conference that Japan should cut its dependence on nuclear power.

Following a tide of criticism, he said that this was his own view and not government policy.

After his meeting with Kan, Amano told reporters there is no doubt more nuclear plants would be built around the world in the future, as many countries think they need nuclear energy to deal with global warming. He said building safe nuclear plants will contribute to safe use of atomic energy.

Tuesday, July 26, 2011 16:08 +0900 (JST)

End