

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. 217: 12:00, September 27

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

(Other news)

- **Fukushima City to decontaminate all houses**
- **Japan explains to China situation of Fukushima**
- **Japan to freeze fast-breeder reactor project**
- **City assembly calls on shutdown of Hamaoka plant**
- **Fukushima evacuation advisory to be lifted**

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●Fukushima City to decontaminate all houses

Fukushima City, about 60 kilometers from the crippled Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, plans to remove radioactive materials from all private houses in the city.

The plan was decided after high levels of radiation were detected in some areas of the city. The amounts were close to a level that would prompt authorities to recommend evacuation of nearby residents.

Some people concerned about possible health risks to their children have already moved out of the city.

The plan aimed at substantially lowering radiation levels in the air for the next 2 years includes decontamination of all 110,000 households in the city.

Of those, highly contaminated houses where children of high school age or younger live will be given extra thorough cleaning.

Under the plan, professional cleaners commissioned by the city will scrub radioactive substances from roofs and ditches of the houses, and remove concrete, which radioactive material tends to adhere to. They will also decontaminate roofs and ditches of other nearby houses, but residents will be required to remove surface soil and weed gardens by themselves.

The city says it will recruit volunteers from around the nation, if necessary, and send them to households that need manpower. The city also plans to decontaminate parks and community halls.

But it has yet to be determined how the contaminated soil and other materials will be disposed of.

Tuesday, September 27, 2011 10:39 +0900 (JST)

●Japan explains to China situation of Fukushima

The Japanese government is hoping to ease Chinese people's concerns over radioactive contamination with seminars on the Fukushima nuclear accident.

More than half a year after the plant accident, many Chinese are still not buying Japanese food products and avoid traveling to Japan.

The Japanese embassy in China and the Japan External Trade Organization, or JETRO, jointly held its second seminar on Monday in Beijing.

Among the 100 or so participants were Chinese government officials, corporate representatives and journalists.

An official from Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency explained the current situation at the nuclear plant. They stressed the government's continuing efforts to cool down the damaged reactors and prevent radioactive materials from spreading. The official said conditions at the plant have been stabilized.

A representative from the Agriculture Ministry explained how Japan monitors radioactive materials on food products. They said that products now in circulation are safe.

But a participant from a Chinese food company said the speakers had not offered a thorough explanation on what the government will do from now on.

Some Chinese at the seminar said that they will carefully monitor the situation to make sure no problem has been overlooked.

Monday, September 26, 2011 18:40 +0900 (JST)

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●Japan to freeze fast-breeder reactor project

Japan is likely to freeze a research and development project related to putting a fast-breeder nuclear reactor into practical use.

The education, science and technology ministry plans to request more than 20 billion yen, or about 260 million dollars, in its 2012 budget to maintain and manage the troubled prototype fast-breeder Monju reactor. This is roughly the same amount budgeted for the project as in the current fiscal year.

But the ministry is planning to ask for only 20 to 30 percent of the 10 billion yen, or about 130 million dollars, allocated in the current fiscal year for research and development on the project.

This is due to uncertainty over Japan's future nuclear policy in the wake of the accident in Fukushima.

Fast-breeder reactors run on recycled spent fuel as the core of a nuclear fuel-recycling program. Japan has been conducting research to put such a reactor to practical use by 2050. Test runs are now under way at the Monju experimental reactor in Tsuruga City, Fukui Prefecture.

Following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, the government has been reviewing its basic energy plan, making its future nuclear policy unclear.

The ministry says it has concluded that it cannot proceed with the project when it is unclear which way the government's energy policy will go.

Monday, September 26, 2011 16:47 +0900 (JST)

●City assembly calls on shutdown of Hamaoka plant

A city assembly in central Japan has adopted a resolution calling on the permanent shutdown of a local nuclear power plant unless its safety is guaranteed. The Makinohara City Assembly in Shizuoka Prefecture adopted the resolution on Monday. The city is located within 10 kilometers from the Hamaoka nuclear plant.

Mayor Shigeki Nishihara said he views the resolution seriously and shares the assembly's concern for the safety of the city's residents. He also said automaker Suzuki is considering moving its factories out of the prefecture because of the risk of a nuclear accident.

Chubu Electric, the plant operator, says it will do all it can to improve the safety of the Hamaoka plant.

As part of a nationwide government mandate, 3 of the plant's 5 reactors went offline following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. The 2 other reactors had already been shut down for decommissioning.

Chubu Electric is now building a breakwater to improve safety measures against future tsunami. It hopes to resume operations of the 3 reactors.

The utility had previously signed a pact to assure nuclear power plant safety with Makinohara and 3 other cities within 10 kilometers from the plant, as well as the prefecture.

The prefecture usually approves a plant's operation if local municipalities give their consent.

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Monday's resolution is likely to affect the utility's plan to restart the reactors.
Monday, September 26, 2011 16:47 +0900 (JST)

●Fukushima evacuation advisory to be lifted

The government will lift an evacuation advisory for 5 municipalities in Fukushima outside the 20-kilometer no-entry zone around the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Senior Vice Minister of Economy Trade and Industry Tadahiro Matsushita on Monday met with Mayor Yuko Endo of Kawauchi Village, one of the municipalities, and said the advisory would be lifted by around Friday.

The municipalities are located in a ring between 20 and 30 kilometers from the Fukushima Daiichi plant. Residents of the areas have been advised to evacuate or remain indoors in the event of an emergency. About 29,000, or half of them, have evacuated.

The advisory covers the entire town of Hirono and parts of Naraha, the village of Kawauchi and the cities of Tamura and Minamisoma.

Mayor Endo said government support is essential to realizing the village's plan to allow all evacuees to return by March.

Matsushita assured Endo that he will take steps to lift the evacuation advisory.

The 5 municipalities had earlier submitted to the government plans to decontaminate the areas and restore lifelines to meet conditions for lifting the advisory.

Monday, September 26, 2011 15:28 +0900 (JST)

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