

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. 213: 12:00, September 23

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

(Other news)

- **Noda to address UN nuclear safety meeting**
- **Noda vows to raise nuke safety to highest level**
- **IAEA adopts action plan for nuclear safety**
- **Fukushima evacuee makes anti-nuclear speech in NY**
- **Radioactive iodine spread south of nuclear plant**
- **Business leader asks for nuclear plant resumption**

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●Noda to address UN nuclear safety meeting

Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda is preparing to give a keynote speech about the Fukushima Daiichi accident at a high-level United Nations meeting on nuclear safety.

About 60 government leaders and cabinet ministers, including South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, will attend the meeting at UN headquarters in New York on Thursday.

Noda will explain Japan's response to the plant accident, and the future of the country's nuclear energy policy.

Ban, who proposed the gathering, told the UN General Assembly earlier this month that the Fukushima accident taught the world that the effects of a nuclear accident go beyond national borders.

He said that it is important to strengthen international safety standards for nuclear reactors to prevent a recurrence.

UN High Representative for Disarmament, Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, told NHK that he looks forward to hearing from Noda about Japan's experiences.

Thursday, September 22, 2011 19:02 +0900 (JST)

●Noda vows to raise nuke safety to highest level

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda has promised that Japan will raise the safety of its nuclear power plants to the highest level in the world.

Noda made the remark on Thursday in a speech to a UN high-level meeting on nuclear safety in New York.

Noda began by expressing deep gratitude for the encouragement and support extended by many countries around the world for victims of the earthquake and tsunami that hit northeastern Japan in March.

On the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, Noda said that the situation is steadily being put under control. He said recent estimates of radioactive releases from the damaged plant are about one 4-millionth of that recorded just after the accident.

He said efforts are underway to achieve cold shutdown of the reactors by the end of this year, instead of in January as originally planned.

The prime minister stressed that the government is determined to objectively identify the cause of the accident, and disclose its findings to the world.

Noda said Japan will raise the safety of its reactors to the world's highest level.

He laid out plans to tighten regulations and establish a new nuclear safety agency in April next year.

Noda promised Japanese support for countries seeking ways to use nuclear power generation to secure energy and combat global warming.

Noda also said his government will work harder to develop and promote renewable energy and draw up a mid-term energy strategy by next summer.

Thursday, September 22, 2011 22:20 +0900 (JST)

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●IAEA adopts action plan for nuclear safety

The International Atomic Energy Agency has unanimously endorsed an action plan on nuclear safety at its annual general conference in Vienna.

The plan calls for sending IAEA inspectors to member countries to evaluate the safety of nuclear plants at their request. It also requires the signatories to quickly organize a response team after a nuclear accident.

The plan was approved by the agency's 35-nation board last week -- six months since the nuclear crisis began at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi plant.

But the approval exposed differences on nuclear safety between the member states.

Some countries, including Germany, which has voted to scrap nuclear power, wanted the safety evaluation to be mandatory.

Others, such as the United States, insisted that it be voluntary. Ultimately, that view won the day.

The IAEA plans to implement the action plan swiftly, seeking cooperation from the member states.

Thursday, September 22, 2011 21:49 +0900 (JST)

●Fukushima evacuee makes anti-nuclear speech in NY

A farmer in Fukushima Prefecture has urged people around the world to get rid of nuclear power plants, saying there is no such thing as safe nuclear power.

53-year Sachiko Sato from Kawamata Town spoke at a gathering in central New York on Thursday. The event, organized by a US anti-nuclear group, was attended by about 70 people.

Sato was forced to evacuate from Fukushima to neighboring Yamagata Prefecture with her family after the accident in March at the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

Sato said the nuclear accident changed her life totally and that she wants people to know the hardship she has gone through after being forced to abandon her farmland.

Sato called on people all over the world to work together to get rid of nuclear plants, saying that when one thinks about the future of children what they have to do is clear.

Friday, September 23, 2011 09:30 +0900 (JST)

●Radioactive iodine spread south of nuclear plant

A Japanese government survey shows that radioactive iodine emitted from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant spread not only northwestward but also to the south of the plant.

The science ministry sampled soil at 2,200 locations, mostly in Fukushima Prefecture, in June and July, and created a map indicating the extent of the

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radioactive contamination as of June 14th.

Officials were able to obtain data for iodine 131 at only 400 locations, because of its short half-life of 8 days.

The latest map shows that iodine 131 spread northwest of the plant, just like cesium 137 as indicated on an earlier map. But the substance was also confirmed south of the plant at relatively high levels.

The researchers found that accumulation levels of iodine 131 were higher than those of cesium 137 in coastal areas south of the plant.

Ministry officials say clouds that moved southward over the plant apparently caught large amounts of iodine 131 that were emitted at the time.

Iodine 131 could cause thyroid cancer through internal exposure. The ministry is therefore trying to determine at what levels the substance spread immediately after the accident at the plant in March.

Thursday, September 22, 2011 11:11 +0900 (JST)

●Business leader asks for nuclear plant resumption

A business group leader in the Kansai region has asked the government to quickly resume operations at suspended nuclear power plants as a way to resolve continued power shortages in Japan.

The head of the Kansai Economic Federation, Shosuke Mori, made the request when he met with Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura in Tokyo on Thursday.

Mori said electricity supply is projected to become tighter during the winter, causing more companies to shift production overseas and to cut workforce. He said Japanese industries will face even more difficulties if this situation continues. Fujimura said he is aware of the severity of power shortages in the Kansai region. He said the government plans to reopen nuclear plants one by one, after conducting thorough safety inspections and gaining the understanding of local communities.

Since the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, many nuclear reactors in Japan remain shutdown after undergoing regular inspections.

Thursday, September 22, 2011 14:22 +0900 (JST)

End