

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. 235: 12:00, October 15

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

(Other news)

- **IAEA team reports to nuclear crisis minister**
- **IAEA team holds news conference**
- **Hot spot in Funabashi City**
- **Radioactive cesium found in plankton off N-plant**
- **Education ministry compiles booklets on radiation**

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●IAEA team reports to nuclear crisis minister

Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency have advised the Japanese government on how to effectively remove radioactive substances resulting from the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

On Friday, the team of experts in radiation-related fields submitted a 12-point report to Japan's Environment Minister, Goshi Hosono.

In the report, the IAEA team recommends preferentially decontaminating areas where high levels of radiation have been detected.

Since their arrival a week ago, the 12 experts have inspected decontamination work in Fukushima Prefecture being carried out by both central and local government.

The team leader, Juan Carlos Lentijo, told Hosono that as Japan is facing a very serious challenge, he hopes the report will help enhance its decontamination measures.

After the meeting Hosono said that, as a whole, Japan's decontamination efforts are going in the right direction. He added that further clean-up operations will take the report's advice into account.

Friday, October 14, 2011 21:10 +0900 (JST)

●IAEA team holds news conference

The IAEA team held a news conference after submitting its report to the Environment Minister.

The team leader, Lentijo, gave high marks to the Japanese authorities for coordinating local and central government in planning decontamination measures, monitoring radiation levels in a wide range of areas, and releasing detailed information.

Referring to the financial support given by the government for decontamination work in areas where annual radiation exposure reaches 1 millisievert, Lentijo said that it will take time to complete the work, but that it should pose no problem.

The team leader also said that most of the soil, and other materials removed by decontamination work, contains low levels of radiation and that the possibility of human exposure is low. He suggested there is no need to be overly cautious about radiation exposure.

Friday, October 14, 2011 22:21 +0900 (JST)

●Hot spot in Funabashi City

Funabashi City, in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, says relatively high levels of radiation have been detected at a local park.

The city said a citizens' group reported on Wednesday that the radiation levels in the park were measured at up to 5.82 microsieverts per hour.

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The city conducted its own measurements at the site on Thursday, and got maximum readings of 1.55 microsieverts per hour, one centimeter above the ground.

The city removed the surface soil at the site, and plans to conduct more detailed inspections.

Separately, Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura said on Friday that the central government is responsible for decontamination work.

He added that the environment ministry, the science ministry, and the Cabinet Office will discuss the issue later on Friday.

Friday, October 14, 2011 13:11 +0900 (JST)

●Radioactive cesium found in plankton off N-plant

High concentrations of radioactive cesium have been found in plankton from the sea near the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Researchers from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology collected plankton in waters up to 60 kilometers from the coast of Iwaki City in July. They found 669 becquerels per kilogram of radioactive cesium in animal plankton from waters 3 kilometers offshore.

They say a wide range of fish feed on animal plankton and that the contamination could accumulate in the food chain and have a more serious impact when it gets into relatively large fish.

The research group's leader, Professor Takashi Ishimaru, says the plankton were so heavily contaminated because sea currents continuously carried contaminated water southward from the nuclear plant. He says detailed studies are needed to determine how long the effect on fish will continue.

Saturday, October 15, 2011 06:34 +0900 (JST)

●Education ministry compiles booklets on radiation

The education ministry has published booklets designed to provide students with basic knowledge on radiation, in response to increasing calls for such materials in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear plant accident.

The ministry released the 20-page booklets on Friday. There are three versions, targeting students in elementary, junior high, and high school.

The books focus mainly on basic information on radiation, its effects on human health, and ways to protect oneself from radiation exposure.

The Fukushima accident is only referred to in the preface. The text does not mention the cause or any other details of the accident.

The book for elementary school pupils explains the unit "sievert", which measures the extent of damage the human body receives from radiation exposure.

It also explains that the average radiation exposure from Japan's natural environment is about 1.5 millisievert a year.

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The booklet for junior high schools explains the difference between internal and external exposure, using charts to show how radiation exposure affects human health.

After the accident in March, parents urged schools to teach children basic facts on radiation. In responding to those requests, the ministry compiled the booklets in cooperation with experts on radioactivity and radiation exposure.

Friday, October 14, 2011 13:11 +0900 (JST)

End