

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. 225: 12:00, October 5

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

(Other news)

- **Japan to work with IAEA decontamination experts**
- **Genkai No.4 nuclear reactor stops operation**
- **IAEA chief asks Vietnam to ensure nuclear safety**
- **Rengo supports less reliance on nuclear power**
- **TEPCO demands only 50% disclosure of manuals**
- **Decontamination seminars begin in Fukushima**

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●Japan to work with IAEA decontamination experts

The Japanese government says it is ready to work with the International Atomic Energy Agency in removing radioactive materials around the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

The government's chief spokesman, Osamu Fujimura, made the remark on Tuesday ahead of a visit by a team of IAEA experts who will arrive in Japan on Friday.

Fujimura said Japan will cooperate with and learn from international experts in decontamination. He said he hopes their visit will help the process to move faster and more efficiently.

The government says it also hopes to establish the best way to clean up radioactive substances so it can be shared by other nations.

The 12-member team is to make the 9-day visit at the request of Japan's nuclear crisis minister, Goshi Hosono.

The team will travel to Fukushima Prefecture to watch the decontamination process and give advice before compiling a report.

Wednesday, October 05, 2011 05:34 +0900 (JST)

●Genkai No.4 nuclear reactor stops operation

A reactor at the Genkai nuclear power plant in western Japan was shut down automatically on Tuesday, following a technical glitch with the unit's cooling system.

Kyushu Electric Power Company, the plant's operator, says no one was hurt and there have been no changes in radiation levels monitored near the plant.

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency says the Number 4 reactor at the plant stopped operations at around 1:40 PM on Tuesday, after abnormalities in the steam condenser of its cooling system were signaled by equipment.

Tuesday's suspension has left the utility with only one of its 6 nuclear reactors in operation.

Tuesday, October 04, 2011 18:55 +0900 (JST)

●IAEA chief asks Vietnam to ensure nuclear safety

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has asked Vietnam to ensure safety at its planned nuclear facilities, in the wake of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano was briefed on Vietnam's nuclear policy by the country's Science and Technology Minister Nguyen Quan in Hanoi on Tuesday.

The country plans to build 2 nuclear power plants in the southern province of Ninh Thuan, one with Russian assistance and the other with help from Japan. Construction is set to begin in 2014.

Quan said Vietnam's government has 65 issues on its agenda, including drawing up plant safety guidelines and standards, and has been training personnel with nuclear expertise.

Amano told NHK after the meeting that Vietnam could be a role model for Asia in nuclear plant development, and stressed the importance of the country's cooperation with the agency.

Tuesday, October 04, 2011 18:16 +0900 (JST)

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●Rengo supports less reliance on nuclear power

The head of Japan's largest labor federation wants the country to aim for a society that does not rely on nuclear power.

Rengo, or the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, opened a 2-day regular convention in Tokyo on Tuesday.

In a speech, Rengo President Nobuaki Koga said the organization will review its energy policy following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. He said it is necessary for Japan to reduce its medium- to long-term reliance on nuclear power and eventually aim to become a society that does not rely on nuclear power.

But Koga suggested that the government should consider temporarily resuming operations at nuclear power plants to provide a stable supply of energy. He said this is on the condition that local residents agree and that the government confirms the plants' safety.

Koga also indicated that Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's Cabinet holds the last chance for the Democrats to govern the country. Koga said he hopes the Noda government will provide a chance for progress in Japan's revitalization by overcoming a national crisis. He was referring to the post-disaster reconstruction and stabilization of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Tuesday, October 04, 2011 16:11 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO demands only 50% disclosure of manuals

The operator of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has finally submitted its accident manuals in their original form to Japan's nuclear safety agency. But the Tokyo Electric Power Company maintains that only half of the documents' contents should be made public.

In mid-September, TEPCO submitted its procedural manuals for nuclear accidents to a Lower House committee investigating the Fukushima accident. But the utility blacked out most of the contents.

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency later instructed TEPCO to submit the originals for 3 types of manuals for accidents of varying scale. The agency also asked the utility how much of the contents could be made public.

TEPCO now says that about 50 percent of the material should remain secret. It also says it wants to disclose just 10 percent of a manual for dealing with serious accidents.

TEPCO says this is because the manuals contain information covered by intellectual property rights. The company also says its manual for dealing with serious accidents includes information on important facilities. It says the documents cannot be made public because such facilities could become potential targets of terrorist attacks.

The nuclear safety agency says it will consider the validity of TEPCO's argument, and will aim to disclose the manuals by the end of October.

Tuesday, October 04, 2011 15:45 +0900 (JST)

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●Decontamination seminars begin in Fukushima

Fukushima Prefecture has begun holding training seminars for workers who will be cleaning areas contaminated with radiation from the Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Fukushima plans to conduct the 2-day technical seminars around the prefecture. On Tuesday, 113 civil engineers, painters and other volunteers who have just begun cleanup work took part in the first seminar in Koriyama City.

An expert from the Japan Atomic Energy Agency spoke about what kind of tools should be used to effectively remove radioactive materials from home gutters and roadside ditches.

The participants also learned how to protect themselves while they are working. On the second day, they will receive practical training using dosimeters.

A man from Iwaki City said he has volunteered several times for decontamination work and would like to learn how to prevent polluted water from spreading. He said he wants to decontaminate Fukushima quickly and restore the area to what it was before.

The prefecture plans to hold 10 seminars by the end of the year and hopes to train as many people as possible to help accelerate the cleanup process.

Tuesday, October 04, 2011 12:56 +0900 (JST)

End