Former Tepco Chairman Said Questioned in Fukushima Legal Probe - Businessweek

Sign in with Facebook Or use your Businessweek account

Email Password Forgot password? Remember me Sign In

Already a Bloomberg.com user?

Sign in with the same account.

Don't have an account? Sign up.

Help! I can't access my account.

Bloomberg.com Businessweek

News From Bloomberg

Search

- Global Economics

  - South African Miners Are Trapped by Debt
    A surge in high-interest lending contributes to mine violence

  - Global Economics
    - The Surprising Upside to Japan's 'Currency War'
    - Sweden Says Indebted Nations Must Stick With Cuts
    - Zuckerman: The Appeal of 'Bibi' Has Diminished
    - Pakistan's Imran Khan: From Cricket to Politics to Davos

- Recent

  - To Fix Overproduction, China Wants to Supersize Industries
  - Why We'll Still Never See a 100% Reserve Economy
  - The Surprising Upside to Japan's 'Currency War'
  - Bloomberg View: David Cameron's Reckless Bravery
  - In Dubai, Services and Exports Drive a New Boom

- Sections

  - China
  - Current Events Calendar
  - U.S. Economy
Anthony Sperduti on Rebooting J.Crew Retail

Along with a partner, Sperduti turned a defunct New York City bar into a menswear store—and helped turn around J.Crew's men's business.

Recent

- To Fix Overproduction, China Wants to Supersize Industries
- The Explosive History of Lithium-Ion Batteries
- Wells Fargo Builds a Trading Floor in Charlotte
- It Pays to Own an Energy Pipeline. Thanks, Tax Code
- China's Unsafe Water Is Nestlé's Opportunity

Sections

- Autos
- Sports
- Company Research
- Energy
- Executive Research
- Health Care
- Job Search
- Blog: The Management Blog
- Management
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Telecommunications
- Transportation
A Tea Partier Takes Charge of North Carolina's Budget

Art Pope, the state's new budget chief, was a Tea Party godfather

Politics & Policy

- U.S. Work Share Program Helps Employers Avoid Layoffs
- Farley: White Nomination Is Enforcement Focused
- Obama Puts Wall St. on Notice With New Nominations
- Meet Obama's Pick for SEC: Mary Jo White

Recent

- The Surprising Upside to Japan's 'Currency War'
- What's at Risk in the War on Terror in Mali
- It Pays to Own an Energy Pipeline. Thanks, Tax Code
- Hillary Clinton on China and the Rest of the World
- How Tough Will the New SEC Head Be?

Sections

- 2012 Campaign
- Congress
- Courts
- Legislation
- White House
- Blog: Are We Better Off?
- Blog: Josh Green on Politics

Technology

The Story Behind Smosh, Youtube's Number One Smash

Jan. 24 (Bloomberg) -- Smosh President Barry Blumberg talks with Bloomberg's Jon Erlichman about how Smosh has become a Youtube sensation. They speak on Bloomberg Television's "Bloomberg West." (Source: Bloomberg)
Former Tepco Chairman Said Questioned in Fukushima Legal Probe - Businessweek

Technology

- Does Microsoft Have a Future in a Mobile World?
- Inside the Secluded World of Kim Dotcom
- Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner and the Decline of Innovation
- Is Google Trying to Remake Wi-Fi?

Recent

- Bloomberg View: Engage Big Pharma to Help Fight the Flu
- The Explosive History of Lithium-Ion Batteries
- Why Apple Is Giving iTunes Discounts in India
- A Sad: Stanford Math Begets a Data Company
- Facebook’s Graph Search May Be Key to More Ad Sales

Sections

- Apple
- Apps & Software
- CEO Tech Guide
- Consumer Electronics
- Facebook
- Google
- Mobile & Telecom
- Personal Technology
- Science & Research
- Social Media

Markets & Finance

- Traders Take Their Swap Deals to Futures Exchanges
  When the government imposed rules, traders up and moved to another market

Markets & Finance

- The Surprising Upside to Japan’s 'Currency War'
- Europe’s Newest Steel Mill Stocked with Art
- Obama Puts Wall St. on Notice With New Nominations
- Detroit Housing’s for Sale, and Global Investors Want In
Ex-Knick Starks Discusses Garden of Dreams Charity

Jan. 24 (Bloomberg) -- Former New York Knicks guard John Starks talks about his work with the Garden of Dreams Foundation. Starks also discusses his basketball career. He speaks with Pimm Fox on Bloomberg Television's "Taking Stock." (Source: Bloomberg)
The Data Dude: NYU Stern’s Panos Ipeirotis

Panos Ipeirotis may be on the NYU Stern business school faculty, but he’s a computer geek at heart.

Business Schools

- On B-School, Leadership, and Narcissism
- Does Religion Belong in the B-School Curriculum?
- Best B-Schools 2012
- 2012 Best U.S. Business Schools

Recent

- INSEAD’s Dipak Jain Stepping Down as Dean
- MBA Poker Champs
- In Vegas, MBAs in Search of a Career Jackpot
- The Data Dude: NYU Stern’s Panos Ipeirotis
- On B-School, Leadership, and Narcissism

Sections

- B-School Calendar
- Financial Aid
- Finding a Job
- Forums
- MBA Admissions
- Rankings & Profiles
- School Finder
- Undergrad Programs
- Blog: Getting In
- Blog: Business School Explained

Small Business
The daily deals behemoth recently halted gun-related offers. One gun store owner is asking customers and other business owners to boycott the site.

**Small Business**

- Reality TV Casts Main Street as Its New Star
- Furniture or Booze? How Startups Spend Their Money
- The Rise of the Foreign-Born Workforce
- It's Retailer vs. Retailer in Internet Sales Tax Push

**Recent**

- Ayan®: Stanford Math Begets a Data Company
- U.S. Work Share Program Helps Employers Avoid Layoffs
- GlaxoSmithKline's Latest Formula: Pay Suppliers Later
- Pricier Penalties for Tax-Reporting Scofflaws
- Behind Women’s Shrinking Share of Federal Contracts

**Sections**

- Advice
- Benefits
- Blog: The New Entrepreneur
- Commentary
- Expanding Overseas
- Financing
- Legal Documents
- Logistics
- Marketing
- Policy
- Profiles
- Taxes
- Technology

**Video & Multimedia**

- Slideshows

**MBA Poker Champs**

**A 30 Rock Guide to Workplace Happiness**
Pakistan's Community Savings

Battling for Brand Placement at Obama's Inauguration

Photo Essays

Directives: How Designers Think

Gotham Greens: A Farm Grows in Brooklyn

Charts

Traders Take Their Swaps Deals to Futures Exchanges

What's at Risk in the War on Terror in Mali

Videos

What It's Like to Race in the MotoGP
Prosecutors questioned the former chairman of Tokyo Electric Power Co. (9501) as part of a criminal investigation into the 2011 nuclear accident at the Fukushima plant, Kyodo news service reported, without citing anyone.

Tsunehisa Katsumata, who served as chairman of the power company known as Tepco until June 2012, was interviewed by investigators probing alleged professional negligence resulting in deaths and injuries connected to the accident, Kyodo reported today.

Katsumata was questioned about whether the disaster, during which an earthquake and tsunami triggered the worst atomic accident since Chernobyl in 1986, could have been predicted and measures that were taken to prepare for such a crisis, as well as officials’ response, according to Kyodo.

Tsuyoshi Numajiri, a Tepco spokesman, said in a phone interview with Bloomberg News that the company would cooperate with any investigation. He declined to comment further. Officials at the Tokyo and Fukushima prosecutors offices declined to comment.

The investigation is in response to a complaint filed in June with the Fukushima City prosecutor’s office by more than 1,300 residents alleging negligence in Japan’s worst civil nuclear-plant accident.

The complaint targets around 40 people, including former Prime Minister Naoto Kan and Haruki Madarame, the former head of the Nuclear Safety Commission, Kyodo said.

“Man-made” Failures

They are accused of being responsible for the injury from radiation exposure and deaths of hospital inpatients during their transfer to a hospital, Ikuo Yasuda, a lawyer representing residents who filed the complaint, said in an August interview.
The investigators plan to decide whether to pursue criminal charges in the spring, Kyodo reported.

Prosecutors took up the case last year after completion of independent investigation reports. One published in July led by University of Tokyo Professor Kiyoshi Kurokawa, said “man-made” failures led to the nuclear disaster. The direct causes of the accident were all foreseeable, the report said, but Tokyo Electric, regulators and the ministry of economy trade and industry overseeing the industry failed to develop basic safety requirements.

The Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant and its six reactors run by the utility known as Tepco was hit by a magnitude 9 earthquake at 2:46 p.m. on March 11, 2011 that knocked out mains power for cooling reactors. The 15-meter tsunami that followed destroyed electrical equipment and flooded basements with seawater that disabled back-up generators.

Three reactors had meltdowns, causing release of radiation into the air and sea, forcing the evacuation of 160,000 people.

To contact the reporter on this story: Jacob Adelman in Tokyo at jadelman1@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Peter Langan at plangan@bloomberg.net
Fix This/Food and Agriculture

In Dubai, Services and Exports Drive a New Boom

South African Miners Are Trapped by Debt

Why Apple Is Giving iTunes Discounts in India

Inside the Secluded World of Kim Dotcom

Bloomberg View: David Cameron's Reckless Bravery

In Japan, Gangnam Style Is a Hit, But PSY Is a Bust

Boeing's 787 Dreamliner and the Decline of Innovation

Fresh from the Lab and Onto Your Plate