

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. 109: 18:00, June 11

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **No.2 reactor air filter starts running**
- **Many challenges at Fukushima Daiichi nuke plant**
- **Radiation in No. 3 reactor too high for work**
- **Fukushima workers' exposure tops 650mSV**
- **TEPCO to install cooling system at No. 4 reactor**

(Other news)

- **Kan's advisor: Japan to step up nuclear regulation**
- **Kansai Power seeks summer conservation**

● **No.2 reactor air filter starts running**

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant has begun running air-filtering equipment at the Number 2 reactor building on Saturday to remove airborne radioactive material.

Intense radioactivity and high humidity inside the building have been hampering work to restore the reactor's cooling system.

Humidity inside the reactor building is as high as 99.9 percent due to moisture that is believed to have come from a spent nuclear fuel storage pool and the basement. Workers cannot remain in the building for a long time even with protective gear and masks.

Tokyo Electric Power Company had set up 2 air-filtering units at a building adjacent to the reactor building.

The devices will filter radioactive materials out of air pumped from the reactor building through a duct. The cleaned air will be fed back into the reactor building. TEPCO says it plans to run the devices for about 3 days and check internal radiation levels before opening up the doors of the reactor building.

Saturday, June 11, 2011 12:59 +0900 (JST)

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●Many challenges at Fukushima Daiichi nuke plant

Three months after the breakdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, there is still a huge number of obstacles to getting the plant under control.

The plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company, has revealed that fuel meltdowns are likely to have occurred in reactors Number 1, 2, and 3.

TEPCO is cooling the reactors and trying to contain radioactive leakage. It has installed a circulatory cooling system for the spent nuclear fuel pool at reactor No. 2.

But highly radioactive water continues to accumulate in the turbine buildings and underground tunnels because TEPCO is injecting water into the reactors to cool them.

Decontaminating the water is vital for stabilizing the reactors and preventing more radioactive leakage from the plant.

On Friday, TEPCO postponed a test run of a water decontamination system because of a malfunction.

The health and labor ministry says plant workers are getting unhealthy and that at least 12 have been diagnosed with heatstroke.

TEPCO spokesman Junichi Matsumoto told a press conference on Friday that the company will do its utmost to make progress in the difficult work to get the plant under control.

Saturday, June 11, 2011 07:57 +0900 (JST)

●Radiation in No. 3 reactor too high for work

The operator of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant says radiation levels in one of the reactor buildings remain too high for workers to do their jobs.

Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, sent 9 workers into the No.3 reactor building for about 20 minutes on Thursday, in a bid to start stabilizing the reactor.

The utility plans to inject nitrogen gas into the containment vessel to prevent accumulated hydrogen from causing an explosion. It also intends to install a system to cool the reactor with circulating water.

The workers withdrew after measuring radiation of 100 millisieverts per hour near the reactor's containment vessel.

TEPCO says it intended to limit the workers' exposure to below 5 millisieverts per hour. But as all 9 received higher doses, it has suspended work while considering a course of action.

Friday, June 10, 2011 20:23 +0900 (JST)

●Fukushima workers' exposure tops 650mSV

Detailed tests have found that 2 workers who were exposed to radiation at the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant received doses of more than twice the government-mandated emergency limit.

The men in their 30s and 40s were each found in early June to have been exposed to over 250 millisieverts -- the new higher limit for exposure that the government introduced after problems began at the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

The National Institute of Radiological Sciences conducted 2 more rounds of

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detailed tests to measure the amount of radioactive iodine and cesium the 2 men could have inhaled.

After analyzing the men's work shifts since the March 11th disaster, the Institute concluded that the man in his 30s was exposed to 678 millisieverts, and the man in his 40s, 643 millisieverts. Internal exposure accounted for more than 80 percent of the figures.

The 2 men were on duty in the central control rooms of reactors No.3 and No.4. They have told the health and labor ministry that they don't remember whether they wore protective masks or not when a hydrogen explosion occurred at the No.1 reactor on March 12th.

The Institute said separately that it is conducting detailed tests on another Fukushima worker in his 50s, who could have received a radiation dose above the emergency limit.

Friday, June 10, 2011 19:45 +0900 (JST)

●TEPCO to install cooling system at No. 4 reactor

The operator of the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant is preparing to install a circulatory cooling system for a spent nuclear fuel pool in the plant's Number 4 reactor building.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, has been using a vehicle to try to cool the pool, which contains 1,535 fuel rods, the most among the plant's 6 reactors. The rods continue to generate high heat, raising temperatures in the pool above 80 degrees Celsius.

TEPCO plans to start operating the cooling system as early as July to pump water out of the pool to a heat exchanger and return the water to the pool as coolant.

On Friday, workers entered the 4th floor of the building for the first time since a hydrogen blast on March 15th severely destroyed the building and damaged water pipes connected to the pool.

The workers checked the pipes and monitored radiation levels. Data on these matters is to be used to study routes for injecting water into the pool.

TEPCO began operating a similar circulatory cooling system at the plant's Number 2 reactor on May 31st.

Friday, June 10, 2011 19:45 +0900 (JST)

●Kan's advisor: Japan to step up nuclear regulation

An advisor to Prime Minister Naoto Kan says Japan will conduct a major review of its nuclear safety arrangements and study ways to step up nuclear regulation.

Goshi Hosono met the chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Gregory Jaczko, in Washington on Friday.

Hosono said the Japanese government plans to turn the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency into an independent body. It is now part of the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry.

Hosono told reporters that chairman Jaczko explained to him the US regulator's consolidated authority to oversee all nuclear power plants in the country and manage the safety of radioactive materials.

In a speech in Washington, Hosono said he believes that Japan should handle the

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disposal of highly radioactive debris and spent nuclear fuel on its own territory.
Saturday, June 11, 2011 13:20 +0900 (JST)

●Kansai Power seeks summer conservation

Kansai Electric Power Company, headquartered in the western city of Osaka, is asking its users to cut their electricity use this summer by 15 percent compared with the peak hours of last summer.

The company's president, Makoto Yagi, unveiled the plan to reporters on Friday. On weekdays from July 1st to September 22nd, household and corporate users will be asked to reduce their power consumption between 9 AM and 8 PM.

The utility will not impose power usage restrictions. Instead, it will ask companies to shift operations at their factories to weekends and nights. It will also call on households to set their air-conditioners at a higher temperature.

Power shortages are expected this summer because the utility's nuclear power plants remain stalled in the wake of the March accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Yagi says the purpose of the company's request is to avoid possible blackouts. He adds that it will do all it can to restart its nuclear plants.

Tokyo and Tohoku electric power companies have already asked their users to conserve power, with a usage reduction target of 15 percent.

Friday, June 10, 2011 13:12 +0900 (JST)

End