

# 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. 199: 12:00, September 9**

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

● **Noda inspects Fukushima Daiichi**

(Other news)

● **Noda offers Fukushima municipal chiefs help**

● **Panel: Saga governor triggered e-mail scam**

● **Radioactive release into sea estimated triple**

● **TEPCO to start "stress test" on plant in Niigata**

● **Japan-Vietnam talks resume on nuclear power plant**

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## ●Noda inspects Fukushima Daiichi

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda has visited the Fukushima Daiichi power plant and asked workers there to keep doing their best to bring it under control.

Noda's visit on Thursday was the first since he became prime minister a week ago. Wearing protective clothing, he inspected the damaged reactor buildings.

Speaking before about 200 Tokyo Electric Power and other workers, he thanked them for working day and night since March.

He said thanks to them, levels of radiation in waste water inside the plant have fallen by a factor of 10 million. He said the whole world is waiting for an end to the Fukushima crisis and their efforts are the key.

Noda said he will do his utmost and work closely with them toward achieving the goal of ending the crisis.

Before visiting the plant, Noda dropped by the government's nuclear disaster-response headquarters, in a nearby sports facility. He met Self-Defense Force personnel working there to thank them.

Noda later visited Date City, northwest of the power plant, where relatively high levels of radiation have been detected. He watched officials measuring radiation levels in a ditch and was briefed about decontamination work.

Thursday, September 08, 2011 18:59 +0900 (JST)

## ●Noda offers Fukushima municipal chiefs help

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda has assured the heads of municipalities around the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant that the government will do all it can to help evacuees return to their hometowns.

Noda met the 12 community heads in Fukushima City on Thursday. Residents of the municipalities evacuated following the March 11th nuclear accident.

Noda said the government will make the utmost effort to revitalize Fukushima and to help the evacuees return home.

He said the government will spend 220 billion yen, or about 2.8 billion dollars from the second supplementary budget of fiscal 2011 to clean up the areas contaminated by radioactive materials.

He added the government will designate districts for decontamination work.

Some municipal chiefs asked for financial aid for decontamination. Others requested decontamination of hilly and other non-residential areas and assistance for the education of children affected.

Mayor Tamotsu Baba of Namie Town said he hopes to see the new government make decisions quickly, noting that the new Prime Minister came to Fukushima quickly compared to his predecessor. But he said he wanted to hear a more detailed explanation of the decontamination plans.

Mayor Toshitsuna Watanabe of Okuma Town commented he appreciated Noda's strong resolve to tackle the disaster and the nuclear accident.

Mayor Katsutaka Idogawa of Futaba Town noted children that have been evacuated need the proper environment to study as they will have major challenges with school entrance examinations.

He also said exposure to radiation could have prevented if the government had offered information about the spread of the radioactive fallout. He added that a quick disclosure of accurate information is needed.

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Friday, September 09, 2011 06:50 +0900 (JST)

## ●Panel: Saga governor triggered e-mail scam

A panel of experts investigating allegations that Kyushu Electric Power Company manipulated public opinion on nuclear power says the attempt was triggered by a remark by the governor of Saga Prefecture.

Yasushi Furukawa told utility executives that some in the business community favored resuming two reactors at the Genkai plant and that it was necessary to look at such views in a public meeting. The prefecture hosts the plant.

The panel disclosed its interim report on Thursday. It was set up after workers at Kyushu Electric and its affiliates sent e-mails in favor of restarting the reactors during a government-sponsored meeting with local residents in June.

A memorandum compiled by the utility also suggests that Governor Furukawa urged it to offer opinions and questions in favor of the reactors' resumption via the Internet. Furukawa denies the allegations.

But the interim report said it cannot be denied that Furukawa made a remark that is the same or similar to the description on the memo.

The panel plans to continue investigating and finalize its report around September 18th.

Thursday, September 08, 2011 22:16 +0900 (JST)

## ●Radioactive release into sea estimated triple

A group of Japanese researchers say that a total of 15,000 terabecquerels of radioactive substances is estimated to have been released from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea.

Researchers at the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, Kyoto University and other institutes made the calculation of radioactivity released from late March through April.

The combined amount of iodine-131 and cesium-137 is more than triple the figure of 4,720 terabecquerels earlier estimated by Tokyo Electric Power Company, the plant operator. The utility only calculated the radioactivity from substances released from the plant into the sea in April and May.

The researchers say the estimated amount of radioactivity includes a large amount that was first released into the air but entered the sea after coming down in the rain.

They say they need to determine the total amount of radioactivity released from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi plant in order to accurately assess the impact of the disaster on the sea.

Thursday, September 08, 2011 19:33 +0900 (JST)

## ●TEPCO to start "stress test" on plant in Niigata

Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, says it will start "stress tests" on two reactors at its Kashiwazaki-kariwa plant in Niigata Prefecture on Friday.

TEPCO said on Thursday that it will start the first stage of the safety assessments on the Number 1 and 7 reactors on Friday. The first stage is required in order to resume operations of the reactors that were halted in order to hold regular safety checks.

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The utility wants to use the assessment to confirm safety and obtain the approval of local governments for restarting operations of the reactors.

The governor of Niigata Prefecture, which hosts the plant, is cautious about resumption.

Governor Hirohiko Izumida has said conducting stress tests will not lead to the prefecture approving of the resumption of such reactors. He has indicated that his prefecture will not make a decision on the matter until the results of investigations into the Fukushima accident are published.

A TEPCO official said the company wants to confirm the safety of the plant through "stress tests" and explain the results to local communities.

In July, the government introduced an additional safety assessment called the "stress test", following the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. The test uses computer simulations to assess how well nuclear power plants can withstand earthquakes, tsunamis and the loss of external power.

The second stage of the "stress test" will apply to all 48 reactors in Japan, excluding those at Fukushima.

Thursday, September 08, 2011 16:51 +0900 (JST)

## ●Japan-Vietnam talks resume on nuclear power plant

Suspended talks between Japan and Vietnam are due to resume in Tokyo on Thursday over a project to build 2 nuclear reactors in Vietnam.

Both governments began negotiating the project in January. Japanese firms would build the reactors, to be operated in 2021.

Vietnam plans a total of 14 reactors by 2030 to meet growing demand for electricity.

But the talks have been suspended since the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, sparked by the March 11th earthquake and tsunami.

In August, the governments agreed to continue with the plan unchanged.

In the new talks, they are expected to discuss how to share the costs of the project and train engineers.

Japan also plans talks with Turkey on similar projects.

Thursday, September 08, 2011 07:52 +0900 (JST)

End