

# 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. 123: 18:00, June 25**

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

(Fukushima NPP Site)

- **TEPCO unable to gauge No.2 reactor water level**
- **Decontamination system meets performance target**
- **Unmanned helicopter crash lands at nuke plant**

(Other news)

- **Radiation results in Fukushima City**
- **Simulation model projects radiation diffusion**
- **Tokyo officials: Radiation levels all below limit**
- **Reports on Fukushima reactors made public**
- **Ministers agree to boost IAEA powers**
- **Mihama Town favors reactor restart**

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## ●TEPCO unable to gauge No.2 reactor water level

The operator of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant says it still cannot obtain accurate data on the water level and pressure of the Number 2 reactor. It says a provisional measuring device installed earlier this week is not operating properly.

Tokyo Electric Power Company believes that readings by the original device are incorrect due to damage suffered in the March disaster.

Workers at the utility company entered the Number 2 reactor building and installed the provisional gauge on Wednesday. The company initially planned to have the gauge begin providing data on Thursday.

But it says as of Saturday, the device is not yet working properly.

TEPCO says this is because the temperature near the reactor containment vessel is so high that water inside the device's pipes has evaporated.

Fuel meltdowns are believed to have occurred at the Number 1 through Number 3 reactors, leading to a possibility that there is little water left inside the Number 2 reactor.

Accurate measurement of the water level is essential for ensuring stable cooling of the reactor.

The utility is struggling to find ways to activate the device.

Saturday, June 25, 2011 13:21 +0900 (JST)

## ●Decontamination system meets performance target

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant says a trouble-hit system for decontaminating highly radioactive water at the facility is working as planned.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, said on Friday that the system can reduce the density of radioactive substances in the water to the targeted level of one-100,000th.

The system is seen as the key to reducing the amount of contaminated water threatening to overflow from the plant's compound.

TEPCO said a US-made device for absorbing radioactive cesium continues to perform at one-tenth its intended capacity, even after workers readjusted a faulty valve setting.

But the firm says test runs have shown that the targeted level can be achieved when the device is used with a French decontaminator.

TEPCO says about 2,500 tons of radioactive water has been decontaminated so far. On Friday, workers began sending the water through salt-removing equipment.

The firm plans to return the treated water to reactors this month, to establish a stable cooling system that involves circulating the water.

But TEPCO says resuming full operation of the decontamination system may take several more days.

Friday, June 24, 2011 19:59 +0900 (JST)

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## ● Unmanned helicopter crash lands at nuke plant

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant says it lost control of an unmanned helicopter during a flight near the No. 2 reactor building, forcing the controller to make an emergency landing on a roof there.

Tokyo Electric Power Company says the remote-controlled light helicopter took off from an observatory south of the Fukushima plant just past 6:30 AM on Friday. Its mission was to collect airborne radioactive substances around the No. 2 reactor building.

The utility says its engine failed about 30 minutes later, making it impossible for the aircraft to ascend.

The helicopter -- 50 centimeters long and weighing 8 kilograms -- was found lying on its side on the rooftop.

TEPCO says it did not see any smoke or flames coming from the helicopter when it landed, and neither the craft nor the reactor building was damaged.

It says it plans to retrieve the helicopter using a mobile crane.

Friday, June 24, 2011 19:16 +0900 (JST)

## ● Radiation results in Fukushima City

Radiation levels in parts of Fukushima City, about 60 kilometers from the disaster-stricken nuclear plant, have been found to require further monitoring. Responding to residents' demands for more information, Fukushima City released on Friday the results of radiation checks conducted on June 17th and 20th at more than 1,000 sites, including public facilities and roads in residential areas.

Six locations, including a park in a municipal housing complex, registered radiation levels of over 3.4 microsieverts per hour when measured one meter above ground. This exceeds the prefecture's threshold for re-checking.

Radiation of over two microsieverts per hour was recorded at 182 sites.

The city said that it re-checked the six sites on Friday, and all locations registered lower radiation.

But the city intends to restrict use of the park in the public housing complex, where radiation of 4.15 microsieverts per hour, which exceeds the central government's limit of 3.8 microsieverts for a park, was recorded 50 centimeters above the ground.

A municipal official says the city will continue monitoring and post the results on its website.

Friday, June 24, 2011 21:05 +0900 (JST)

## ● Simulation model projects radiation diffusion

Researchers say radioactive substances leaked from the Fukushima Daiichi plant will reach ocean waters 4,000 kilometers away from the plant within a year of the

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nuclear accident.

Using a computer simulation model, Japan's science ministry predicted how the radioactive cesium 137 that leaked from the Fukushima plant will spread in the Pacific Ocean.

The computer image shows that, as of April of next year, cesium 137 will reach eastern waters around 4,000 kilometers away from the Fukushima plant.

The highest concentration is projected at 0.023 becquerels per liter -- that's about 14 times the normal level, but still only one-three-thousandth of safe limits.

3 years after the accident, the radioactive materials are forecast to diffuse further in waters north of Hawaii, lowering concentration levels.

The radioactive substances will reach the US west coast in 5 years. Seven years after the initial accident, the concentration level is predicted to be close to normal.

Masanao Nakano, a senior engineer at the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, says that in one year, the radiation concentration level will become so low that eating fish from even the most contaminated areas would pose little danger to health.

Friday, June 24, 2011 20:40 +0900 (JST)

## ●Tokyo officials: Radiation levels all below limit

The Tokyo Metropolitan Government says radiation levels at 100 locations in Tokyo pose no health hazard, but that they are reading relatively high in some eastern areas.

Tokyo officials released on Friday the results of radiation monitoring conducted in the week up to Wednesday. The monitoring was carried out in response to public concern about contamination from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Measurements were made at 5 centimeters and one meter above the ground.

The average of the 5-centimeter readings was 0.067 microsieverts per hour. The figure for the one-meter readings was 0.061 microsieverts per hour.

The highest level was detected at an elementary school in Katsushika Ward in eastern Tokyo, where the reading for the 5-centimeter point was 0.19 microsieverts and 0.2 microsieverts for the one-meter point. Both were about triple the average.

Seven other wards near Katsushika also recorded higher-than-average radiation levels.

Tokyo Metropolitan University Associate Professor Tsuguhisa Kato says wind directions and river flows possibly caused radiation levels to rise in eastern areas.

He says residents do not need to worry too much, as the readings are still below the safety limit. He called on the authorities to continue their efforts.

The results are available on the website of the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Public Health.

Friday, June 24, 2011 20:40 +0900 (JST)

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## ● Reports on Fukushima reactors made public

Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency has made public on its website documents revealing what happened at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant after the March 11th earthquake and tsunami.

The agency on Friday posted on its website Tokyo Electric Power Company's reports, which were submitted to the agency between March 11th and May 31st. The documents totaled 11,000 pages.

It says the government used these documents as reference material when it compiled a report on the nuclear crisis, which was submitted earlier this month to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Documents submitted to the government were handwritten up to March 19th, during which the Fukushima Daiichi plant was left without electricity.

Goshi Hosono, the prime minister's advisor on the Fukushima accident, spoke about the documents in a news conference on Friday.

He said he has insisted on their release since they include an account of how the plant operator came to use seawater to cool down reactors.

Hosono also said their release was delayed due to the volume of the reports.

The agency says documents submitted after June 1st will also be made available on its website.

Saturday, June 25, 2011 08:56 +0900 (JST)

## ● Ministers agree to boost IAEA powers

The ministerial meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency has concluded its 5-day talks, with Director General Yukiya Amano pledging to strengthen the nuclear watchdog.

The meeting in Vienna was convened to discuss nuclear safety following the accident at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Wrapping up the meeting on Friday, Amano said the IAEA must do more to ensure the safety of nuclear power plants around the world.

Before his speech, the leaders of 3 working groups reported on their discussions.

They called for the IAEA to conduct regular safety checks of nuclear regulators and the power plants of member countries, as well as unannounced inspections.

However, experts wonder how well the IAEA can assess nuclear safety, since some countries want to restrict the issue to state authorities.

Some countries considering the introduction of nuclear power are not supportive of tighter safety standards.

The nuclear watchdog is expected to draft an action plan bolstering its effectiveness by the time of its annual meeting, scheduled for September.

Friday, June 24, 2011 19:59 +0900 (JST)

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## ●Mihama Town favors reactor restart

Mayor of Mihama Town in Fukui prefecture says he favors the restart of 2 nuclear power reactors that are currently suspended for regular inspections. Mayor Jitaro Yamaguchi made the remark on Friday after he met with officials from the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, which is overseen by the industry ministry.

Agency officials assured the mayor of the safety of the Mihama plant's No. 1 and No. 3 reactors, since emergency security measures were implemented following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Yamaguchi indicated he hopes the 2 reactors will resume operations, although he added that the final decision would depend on the stance of Fukui Prefecture. Fukui Prefecture hosts 13 commercial nuclear power reactors, the most in the country. Regular inspections of 4 of the reactors are expected to conclude by August.

But the prefectural governor, Issei Nishikawa, has not approved their resumption. Mihama Town is the first of Fukui's 4 nuclear hosting communities to express a positive stance toward the restart of reactors.

Friday, June 24, 2011 18:36 +0900 (JST)

End