

# 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. 79: 18:00, May 12**

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

(Fukushima NPP site)

- **Water likely leaking from No.1 reactor**
- **New radioactive leak raises questions**
- **Water leaking from No.1 reactor**
- **TEPCO: Highly radioactive water flowed into sea**

(Other News)

- **Keidanren asks China to lift import restrictions**
- **More Fukushima evacuees briefly return home**
- **Operator to begin work to halt Hamaoka reactors**
- **Imperial couple visits disaster-hit Fukushima**

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## ●Water likely leaking from No.1 reactor

Tokyo Electric Power Company says water may be leaking from breaches in the No.1 reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, causing a sharp drop in the water level inside the reactor.

Tokyo Electric sent workers inside the building to adjust the water gauge of the reactor.

The utility had suspected the gauge wasn't working properly because the water level hasn't been rising despite pumping in 150 tons of water daily to cool the reactor.

On Thursday morning, it was found that the water level was more than one meter below the bottom of the fuel rods, suggesting a large volume of water is leaking into the containment vessel.

The utility company also believes that the water is leaking from the containment vessel into the reactor building. This is because the estimated volume of water inside the containment vessel appears to be less than what leaked into it from the reactor.

Tokyo Electric says temperatures at the bottom of the reactor are between 100 and 120 degrees Celsius, suggesting that the fuel has fallen and is being cooled in the water below.

The utility says it does not believe the fuel has completely melted and spilled through the bottom of the reactor. It adds that instead, the fuel appears to be being cooled inside the reactor.

Tokyo Electric says the company will now have to review its ongoing procedure of filling the containment vessel with water to cool the reactor.

It says it will reveal a new plan on Tuesday next week when it is set to announce a revised schedule for containing the emergency.

Work to cool the reactors had made the most progress in the No.1 reactor, with the volume of injected water being increased. The cooling of the reactors is the most important step in the containment process.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano told reporters that the reactor appears to be stable because it's been steadily cooled for a long period. But he said the condition of the reactor must be reassessed as some figures from the gauge are contradictory.

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said that if the latest data is accurate, it seems parts of the fuel have melted and accumulated at the bottom of the reactor.

But it added that it believes the fuel rods are being cooled.

Thursday, May 12, 2011 15:08 +0900 (JST)

## ●New radioactive leak raises questions

Highly radioactive water was found leaking into the sea from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant on Wednesday. It's now been revealed that contaminated water levels in the No. 3 reactor's turbine building were already alarmingly high by Sunday.

Tokyo Electric Power Company plugged the leak with concrete after it found highly radioactive water flowing into the sea through a pit.

Radioactive cesium 620,000 times higher than the government-set safety limit

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was detected from the leaked water.

The contaminated water was streaming from the outlet of a pipe for electric cables.

The leak is thought to have stemmed from pooled water in the turbine building of the No. 3 reactor.

TEPCO says it found that waste water levels in the facility had risen to a point where leakage was feared on Sunday.

The company says it doesn't know when the leak began, but that it will investigate if the monitoring of water levels was appropriate. The problem raises the question of whether the utility wasn't able to prevent the latest leak.

The utility is planning to soon begin transferring radioactive water accumulated in the turbine building to a provisional storage facility. It is now checking for other possible leaks.

Highly radioactive water poured into the sea from a crack in a pit outside the No.2 reactor in early April.

On Thursday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said the renewed leaking of radioactive materials into the sea was extremely regrettable.

He says the government apologizes to the local residents, the fishing industry and neighboring countries.

Edano also said he had instructed TEPCO to investigate how the leak occurred, and that the company must take measures to prevent another episode.

Thursday, May 12, 2011 13:09 +0900 (JST)

## ●Water leaking from No.1 reactor

Tokyo Electric Power Company says water may be leaking from a hole in the No.1 reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, causing a sharp drop in the water level inside the reactor.

Tokyo Electric sent workers inside the building to adjust the water gauge of the reactor.

The utility suspected the gauge wasn't working properly because the water level hasn't been rising despite the pumping in of 150 tons of water daily to cool the reactor.

On Thursday morning, it was found that the water level was more than one meter below the bottom of the fuel rods. The water is believed to be leaking into the containment vessel.

Tokyo Electric says temperatures at the bottom of the reactor are between 100 and 120 degrees Celsius, suggesting that the fuel rods have slipped downward and are being cooled in the water below.

The utility says it will continue to monitor the situation by increasing the volume of water being injected.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano told reporters that the reactor appears to be stable because it's been steadily cooled for a long period. But he said the condition of the reactor must be reassessed as some figures from the gauge are contradictory.

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said that if the latest data is accurate, it seems parts of the fuel rods have melted and accumulated at the bottom of the

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reactor. But it added that it believes the fuel rods are being cooled.  
Thursday, May 12, 2011 13:09 +0900 (JST)

## ●TEPCO: Highly radioactive water flowed into sea

Highly radioactive water has been found seeping into the ocean near one of the reactors at the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Workers found that contaminated water was flowing from a pipe into a pit near the Number 3 reactor's water intake on Wednesday morning.

The workers then used a camera to film near the water intake pipe. They found contaminated water was also leaking from the wall of the pit into the ocean.

Tokyo Electric Power Company says that water in the pit contained 37,000 becquerels of cesium-134 per cubic centimeter. That represents 620,000 times above the safety limit set by the government.

TEPCO also found that seawater between the intake and a nearby special barrier had the same radioactive substance at 32,000 times the limit. The barrier was set up to prevent radioactive water from spilling into the ocean.

The firm says it managed to stop the leak later in the day after it blocked the pipe and buried the pit in concrete.

TEPCO is looking into the possibility that radioactive water in the reactor's turbine building may have leaked through a tunnel connecting to the pipe because water levels in the turbine building had fallen since Tuesday.

Last month, TEPCO confirmed that radioactive water had leaked into the ocean from a crack in a pit outside the No.2 reactor. It later stopped the leak.

Thursday, May 12, 2011 07:57 +0900 (JST)

## ●Keidanren asks China to lift import restrictions

The head of Nippon Keidanren, or the Japan Business Federation, has asked China to lift restrictions on Japanese agricultural imports based on fears of radiation following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant accident.

Keidanren Chairman Hiromasa Yonekura made the request at a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Thursday in Beijing.

Yonekura said Japanese industry has been working hard to rebuild production and distribution networks seriously affected by the March 11th disaster and nuclear accident.

He said Japan will provide China with accurate information about the situation at the plant so that China can avoid excessive customs screenings for Japanese farm imports.

Yang said China hopes to actively support Japan's reconstruction efforts and takes its request seriously. He added that China will keep following information from Japan and do all it can to help, based on Chinese import rules.

Yonekura is in Beijing for a series of meetings with Chinese political and business leaders. On Friday he's due to meet Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to discuss strengthening bilateral economic relations.

Thursday, May 12, 2011 16:52 +0900 (JST)

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## ●More Fukushima evacuees briefly return home

More nuclear evacuees are making brief returns to their homes near Japan's troubled Fukushima nuclear plant to gather belongings.

Residents from Katsurao and Kawauchi villages arrived at a gymnasium on Thursday morning to prepare for their return. This is the second such visit following one on Tuesday by the first group of Kawauchi residents.

The residents donned protective suits and were given radiation dosimeters and walky-talkies. They were then taken to their homes on buses in the afternoon.

The residents will have two hours to gather their belongings and check on livestock and other matters.

After that, they will be driven back to the gymnasium and screened for radiation exposure.

The government arranged the visits at the evacuees' request after declaring a 20-kilometer exclusion zone around the Fukushima plant on April 22nd. Many residents had already fled the area under non-binding evacuation orders issued immediately after the accident.

Under the government plan, evacuees from nine municipalities are due to make visits by the end of May. But those whose homes are within three kilometers of the nuclear plant will be excluded due to higher radiation levels there.

Thursday, May 12, 2011 15:11 +0900 (JST)

## ●Operator to begin work to halt Hamaoka reactors

Chubu Electric Power Company says it will begin work on Friday to halt operations at 2 nuclear reactors at its Hamaoka nuclear power plant in central Japan.

The plant operator on Monday accepted Prime Minister Naoto Kan's request to shutdown the Number 4 and 5 reactors.

Kan cited the risk of the plant being hit by a strong quake that is projected in the region in the next 30 years.

The plant operator says it will begin the shutdown of the Number 4 reactor at 3:30 AM Friday and the Number 5 reactor at 1:20 AM Saturday.

The company says it will take 7 to 8 hours to halt power generation at the reactors, and the reactors will reach a cold shutdown about 24 hours after that.

Chubu Electric says it expects the entire process to be completed on Sunday.

Chubu Electric had been supplying electricity to Tokyo Electric Power Company to help it deal with an electricity shortage due to the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant triggered by the March 11 quake and tsunami.

It was also supplying power to Kyushu Electric Power Company. Chubu says it stopped these supplies on Wednesday after arranging for other utilities to provide power.

With the halt of the number 4 and 5 reactors, all 5 reactors at the Hamaoka plant will be out of operation.

Reactors 1 and 2 are already waiting to be decommissioned, while reactor number 3 had been stopped for a regular inspection.

Thursday, May 12, 2011 13:09 +0900 (JST)

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## ●Imperial couple visits disaster-hit Fukushima

Japan's imperial couple has visited Fukushima Prefecture to encourage people who evacuated due to the earthquake and tsunami disaster and radioactive contamination from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko arrived at a gymnasium in Fukushima City on Wednesday morning.

The gym is serving as a shelter for about 600 evacuees from Minamisoma City, Katsurao Village and other areas including the no-entry and evacuation zones around the plant.

The couple knelt and spoke to evacuees at the shelter. The Emperor expressed sympathy for a woman who told him about the hardship of living at the shelter with her 2 young children.

The Empress told a man that she hopes the nuclear plant will be put under control quickly, so that he can return home.

The couple also visited a shelter in Soma City, which was devastated by the tsunami. The Emperor repeatedly offered words of encouragement to evacuees there.

The couple later went to a coastal area destroyed by the tsunami. Standing in the rain, they bowed silently in the direction of destroyed houses.

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 20:00 +0900 (JST)

End