

# 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. 82: 18:00, May 15**

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

(Fukushima NPP site)

- **TEPCO to inject more water into No.1 reactor**
- **Massive floating platform heads for Fukushima**
- **TEPCO to review cooling operation**
- **TEPCO releases photos in the No.1 reactor**
- **TEPCO confirms water in No.1 reactor**
- **TEPCO: Years needed to remove damaged nuclear fuel**
- **Radioactivity at No.3 reactor leaking into ocean**

(World)

- **Kan to promote tourism at 3-way summit**

(Other News)

- **Evacuation begins in Fukushima**
- **Govt may enact special law over nuke compensation**

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## ●TEPCO to inject more water into No.1 reactor

The operator of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant says it will increase the amount of water being injected into the Number One reactor in a study of how to stabilize the reactor, whose fuel rods are believed to have melted down.

Tokyo Electric Power Company says the water level in the reactor is now extremely low and that the pressure vessel protecting the reactor core has a hole and cracks as a result of the meltdown.

It says the containment vessel was also damaged, and has been leaking a large amount of highly radioactive water into the reactor building.

TEPCO is now reviewing its effort to cool the reactor by filling the containment vessel with water. It says it decided to increase the amount of water being injected into the reactor from 8 tons per hour to 10 tons per hour.

The company says it will monitor the water level, temperature, and pressure inside the containment vessel for 2 days.

The utility says if a certain water level is maintained inside the containment vessel, it is possible to set up a cooling system that circulates water from the containment vessel to a heat exchanger and back to the reactor.

The company says after studying data obtained from the operation, it will come up with a specific cooling method on Tuesday when it reviews the roadmap.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 14:48 +0900 (JST)

## ●Massive floating platform heads for Fukushima

A massive hollow floating platform is being transported to Fukushima to hold radioactive water from a troubled nuclear power plant.

The steel platform is 136 meters long and 46 meters wide and can store up to 10,000 tons of water.

It was provided to Tokyo Electric Power Company from Shizuoka city, where it was used as a fishing park.

It was made water-tight and rust-resistant during one month of refitting at a Yokohama shipyard. A large crane was mounted and pipes attached.

After final inspection at a nearby port, the platform is scheduled to arrive off the coast at Fukushima Daiichi power plant in one to two weeks.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 13:00 +0900 (JST)

## ●TEPCO to review cooling operation

Tokyo Electric Power Company will have to review its plan for stabilizing the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear facility after a large amount of radioactive water was found in the basement of one of its reactor buildings.

The utility says it discovered an estimated 3,000 tons of contaminated water in the basement of the damaged Number 1 reactor building.

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TEPCO says fuel rods in the Number 1 reactor melted down and created a hole in the bottom of the pressure vessel. It says the containment vessel also appears to be damaged and highly radioactive water has leaked into the basement of the building.

The company had planned to fill the containment vessel with water and set up a cooling system.

But it now says that it will study a plan to circulate water directly from the basement, through a decontamination filter and heat exchanger, and then back into the reactor.

On Tuesday, TEPCO is expected to submit a revised operation schedule to the government. However, a series of problems facing the company is likely to delay its efforts to bring all the reactors at the facility under control.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 08:57 +0900

## ●TEPCO releases photos in the No.1 reactor

The Tokyo Electric Power has released 5 photographs of the crippled Number 1 reactor of the Fukushima Daiichi plant.

One of the pictures taken by workers on May 9th shows a large amount of debris on the reactor building floor.

Another picture shows an elevator located at the northwest corner of the building with cables hanging loose. The elevator door was blown off by a large hydrogen explosion on March 12th.

A picture was taken by a remote-controlled robot on May 13th at the southeastern side of the Number One reactor building. Equipment that appears to be an electrical circuit board can also be seen near a double door. No debris can be seen on the floor.

Around this area, extreme high levels of radioactivity have been observed -- up to 2,000 millisieverts per hour, thus workers can only stay in the vicinity for around 8 minutes.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 08:57 +0900 (JST)

## ●TEPCO confirms water in No.1 reactor

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant says the amount of highly radioactive water in the basement of the Number one reactor is increasing. The water is leaking from a hole or cracks in the containment vessel.

On Friday, Tokyo Electric Power Company workers found that the water in the basement is 4.2 meters deep.

The company intends to measure radiation levels of the water as it tries to find ways to deal with the leakage.

Also on Friday, a robot detected a maximum of 2,000 millisieverts of radiation per hour on the first floor of the reactor building.

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The radiation level is the highest since the March 12th accident.  
The company says the water is leaking from the pipes leading to the reactor, which were probably damaged as a result of a meltdown.  
The utility has been forced to revise its original plan before submitting it to the government on Tuesday.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 08:57 +0900 (JST)

## ●TEPCO: Years needed to remove damaged nuclear fuel

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant says it may take a number of years to remove damaged nuclear fuel rods from the Number 1 reactor. The Tokyo Electric Power Company announced on Saturday, that most of the fuel rods in the Number 1 reactor have melted and fallen to the bottom of the reactor where they are submerged in water.

TEPCO announced in April that it was aiming to get the reactor stabilized and cooled down in 6 to 9 months.

However, no timeline has yet been proposed for the removal of the nuclear fuel.

The company plans to study measures taken at the 1979 Three Mile Island accident in the US, where a meltdown of nuclear fuel rods also occurred.

There it took almost 10 years to remove melted fuel at the bottom of the reactor, which resembled hardened lava.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 08:57 +0900 (JST)

## ●Radioactivity at No.3 reactor leaking into ocean

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant announced that radioactive materials continue to leak into the ocean near the plant.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company said 140 becquerels of cesium-134 per cubic centimeter, was measured on Saturday morning near the water intake of the plant's Number 3 reactor. That represents 2,300 times the legal limit.

It also detected 150 becquerels of cesium-137, which is 1,700 times the legal limit.

On Wednesday of this week, the utility found that highly radioactive water was continuing to flow into the ocean from a pit located near the water intake of the Number 3 reactor.

On Friday, TEPCO detected 6,200 times the legal limit of cesium-134.

The company says it will continue to monitor radioactivity levels near the plant.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 08:57 +0900 (JST)

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## ●Kan to promote tourism at 3-way summit

Prime Minister Naoto Kan says he hopes to boost tourism promotion and human resource exchanges in next week's 3-way summit with China and South Korea. Kan and Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Tetsuro Fukuyama met 5 experts on Japan's bilateral relationships with China and South Korea at the Prime Minister's residence on Saturday.

They exchanged opinions on the 3-way summit that starts in Tokyo next Saturday.

One of the participants said it is important to emphasize that Japanese-made food products sold on the market are safe, in order to allay concerns caused by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Kan added that he will aim to strengthen ties with the 2 countries by cooperating in the field of tourism and human resource exchanges.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 08:57 +0900 (JST)

## ●Evacuation begins in Fukushima

Evacuation of some people who live outside the 20 kilometer radius from the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant has begun.

Families with babies and children up to kindergarten age and pregnant women are the first of the 7,700 residents of two towns to evacuate.

Municipal officials say they have secured temporary housing for almost all of the residents who want it.

One evacuee says he and his family have to move out for the sake of his children, but it is very discouraging to leave.

He says they will do what they can until the day they are able to return to their home.

Some farmers cannot evacuate soon as they have not been able to find places to move their cattle or have them put down. Some families cannot move together to designated temporary housing or cannot decide on the place to go as they would be far from work or school.

The Japanese government expanded the evacuation zone around the plant to areas where cumulative radiation levels are 20 millisieverts or higher per year.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 13:00 +0900 (JST)

## ●Govt may enact special law over nuke compensation

Prime Minister Naoto Kan has told the governor of Fukushima Prefecture that the government will consider enacting special laws on compensating people affected by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Fukushima Governor Yuhei Sato met Kan at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on Saturday.

Sato said the meltdown at the No.1 reactor was finally made clear 64 days after

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the nuclear accident. He called on the central government to bring the situation under control as quickly as possible.

The governor also said the government should handle the compensation issue in a responsible manner by enacting special laws, which would back efforts to help nearby residents and rebuild the local economy.

Kan replied that the government will do all it can to end the crisis and hinted at the possibility of enacting special laws on compensation payments.

The Fukushima governor later told reporters that the leakage of radioactive substances into the air and sea is very troubling, and that he had called on the government to more tightly control the plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Company.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 14:35 +0900 (JST)

End