

# 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. 81: 18:00, May 14**

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

(Fukushima NPP site)

- **TEPCO looking into radioactive water leak**
- **Fukushima Daiichi plant worker dies**
- **TEPCO to cover No.1 reactor building**
- **TEPCO searching for 'missing' radioactive water**

(Other News)

- **Wen says China may ease food import restrictions**
- **All Hamaoka reactors stop generating power**

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## ●TEPCO looking into radioactive water leak

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is trying to identify where highly radioactive water from the No.1 reactor's containment vessel is flowing to, as the reactor is believed to have suffered a meltdown.

Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, says the meltdown at the No.1 unit created holes in the reactor and damaged the containment vessel.

A large amount of highly radioactive water is believed to be leaking out, but it is not known where it is flowing.

TEPCO says the water could be flowing into the basement of the reactor building, but that workers cannot enter the site due to fear of high levels of radiation.

The company is examining footage from Friday's survey conducted by a remote-controlled robot of the first floor of the building, while analyzing data on radiation intensity.

TEPCO also began installing air-cooled heat exchangers on Friday so that water collected from the containment vessel can be reused for cooling the reactor.

The company plans to bring in 10 heat exchangers by Tuesday and connect them to pipes.

Water can be sent to heat exchangers only when the containment vessel holds a certain level of water. Uncertainty regarding the current level of the water is another challenge facing TEPCO.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 13:04 +0900 (JST)

## ●Fukushima Daiichi plant worker dies

A worker at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant fell unconscious at work on Saturday and later died.

The worker in his 60s complained of ill health while working at a waste processing facility. He worked for a subcontracting firm of Tokyo Electric Power Company.

The man was taken to a medical office in the plant, where he was found to have lost consciousness. He was then taken by ambulance to a hospital in Iwaki City and confirmed dead shortly after 9:30 AM. The cause of his death is unknown.

Tokyo Electric says the worker had been transporting equipment since Friday. He was scheduled to work for 3 hours from 6:00 AM on Saturday.

The company says the worker had put on a full protective suit and was not exposed to radioactive substances.

This was the first time that a worker at the Daiichi plant died after the March 11th disaster.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 12:20 +0900 (JST)

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## ●TEPCO to cover No.1 reactor building

Tokyo Electric Power Company has started preparations to cover the damaged Number 1 reactor building at the Fukushima Daiichi plant. The company aims to decrease the amount of nuclear materials leaking into the air.

TEPCO has been working to reduce the leakage of those substances while cooling down the reactors.

It has been clearing contaminated rubble and spraying a chemical hardening agent to prevent the spread of radioactive dust.

TEPCO is going to cover the Number 1 reactor building, which lost its roof in a hydrogen explosion in March. On Friday, workers cleared rubble so that a big crane can be set up near the building.

TEPCO says a polyester sheet will be attached to steel frames, enclosing the 50-meter-tall building. The company says the cover can withstand strong winds.

TEPCO also says it will install a ventilator with a filter to capture radioactive materials that would otherwise be concentrated inside.

To minimize radiation exposure among its workers, the company says the steel frames will be pre-assembled as much as possible, shortening the set up time at the plant.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 06:01 +0900 (JST)

## ●TEPCO searching for 'missing' radioactive water

The operator of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is trying to locate thousands of tons of radioactive water that has leaked from one of the damaged reactors.

Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, says contaminated water is apparently leaking from the No.1 reactor, which is in a state of meltdown.

TEPCO has injected more than 10,000 tons of water into the reactor since the March 11th disaster damaged the plant. But, less than half that amount is believed to remain in the reactor or its container vessel.

The utility says the leaked water is likely in the basement of the reactor building - still a no-go zone due to concerns over high radiation levels.

TEPCO is considering using remote-controlled robots to check the situation, but says the wireless links needed to control them may not reach the basement and that it has to explore other options as well.

Injected water is continuing to stabilize the reactor, but any radioactive water that has leaked could hamper the effort.

TEPCO says it hopes to come up with ways to retrieve and purify contaminated water to use it to cool the reactor again.

Friday, May 13, 2011 21:27 +0900 (JST)

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## ●Wen says China may ease food import restrictions

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao says China will consider easing import restrictions on Japanese farm products. It imposed them due to fears of radiation from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Wen made the remark on Friday during a meeting in Beijing with the chairman of the Japan Business Federation, Hiromasa Yonekura.

Yonekura told Wen that Japan is providing China with accurate information about the nuclear accident to help scotch unfounded rumors about Japanese farm products. He said the information means China could avoid excessive customs procedures.

Wen said his country is considering easing screening of Japanese foods, and that he hopes to use his upcoming meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan to discuss concrete steps.

Wen will visit Japan from May 21 to attend a tripartite meeting with Japanese and South Korean leaders.

At a news conference later on Friday, Yonekura said he would be grateful if increased economic cooperation with China helps Japan recover from the disaster.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 06:01 +0900 (JST)

## ●All Hamaoka reactors stop generating power

The last operating reactor at the Hamaoka nuclear power plant in central Japan stopped generating electricity on Saturday morning as part of the process to suspend the plant's operations.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan requested the suspension of the plant last week, saying it is located in an area where a major earthquake is predicted to occur in the near future and safety measures are inadequate.

Early on Saturday morning, Chubu Electric Power Company started inserting control rods in the No.5 reactor to stop nuclear fission.

At 10:15 AM, the control center monitor in Nagoya City confirmed that the reactor's output had fallen to zero.

Nuclear fission in the reactor is expected to come to a halt in the afternoon, ending the reactor's operation.

The complete shutdown of the No.5 reactor means all 5 reactors at Hamaoka will be out of operation.

The No.1 and No.2 reactors had already been shut down for decommissioning, and the No.3 reactor has been stopped for a regular inspection. The No.4 reactor was shut down on Friday.

Also on Saturday, Kansai Electric Power Company is to shut down the No.3 reactor at the Mihama plant in Fukui Prefecture on the Sea of Japan coast for a periodic inspection.

As a result, 35 reactors in Japan, or two-thirds of the country's commercial nuclear reactors, will be shut down.

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Some stopped operating after the March 11th disaster while others have been suspended after routine inspections.

Saturday, May 14, 2011 12:00 +0900 (JST)

End