

# Key nuclear facilities may have been damaged before tsunami

Kyodo News May 15, 2011

Press Agency [Kyodo News just published an unexpected news](#) item of capital importance regarding the nuclear reactors in Japan, but which have implications for all nuclear power plants world-wide.

Kyodo News: "Data taken at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on the night of March 11 showing a high level of radiation at a reactor building suggest the possibility that key facilities there may have been damaged by the quake itself that day rather than tsunami-caused power loss that failed the reactor's cooling function, a utility source said Saturday.

The revelation may call for a review of preparedness against quakes at various nuclear power stations in Japan as they have primarily focused on securing auxiliary power supplies and embankment enhancement against tsunami after the Fukushima plant crisis, assuming that reactor facilities at the plant were unscathed by trembling.

On March 11, the power plant was shut down automatically just past 2:46 p.m. following the magnitude-9 quake. Within an hour, it was hit by at least two rounds of tsunami waves. [The external power supply](#) was then shut down, disabling the emergency core cooling system from injecting water at 4:36 p.m."

The news item of May 15th, 2011, about the Fukushima power plant is both simple and in conformity with predictions concerning the major nuclear disaster which is in progress now: on the whole the situation of the Fukushima Daiichi plant is degrading inexorably each day, and it is essentially beyond control, the situation being justly described on May 15th by an advisor to the Prime Minister Naoto Kan who declared clearly that, sic: "[Original plan to cool Fukushima nuclear reactor to be scrapped](#)"

At present the stainless steel envelopes are fracturing (breaking), the melting uranium rods is leading via fusion reactions to the piercing of the reactor vats, which in turn prevents adequate emergency cooling (the rods are exposed to air in [reactor unit n°1 – Infographie 15 05 2011](#) and generates enormous highly radioactive leaks (loses) into the ocean which are uncontrollable via [the pressure chamber of the reactor](#).

The fact that reactor three used MOX fuel [[Plutonium Alert Fukushima n°3](#)] has prompted a Russian Chernobyl expert to even [assert](#) that '(the) release of plutonium will contaminate that area forever and...is impossible to clean up.' The worst may already have happened.

In view of the extreme gravity of the situation it seems unnecessary to elaborate further.

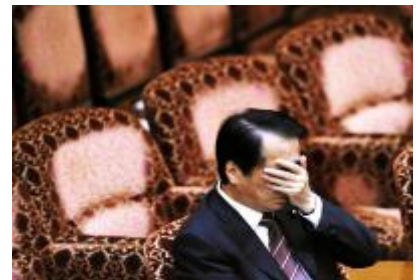
Unless there is an unexpected change of events, is it not just a question of time before we know the fate of one part or the entire territory of Japan? In other words: is Japan in the process of committing Hara-Kiri?

For the rest of the world, following the universal laws of physics, a period of time will be necessary in order to quantify the impact of the disaster, namely on the food chain, or worse...

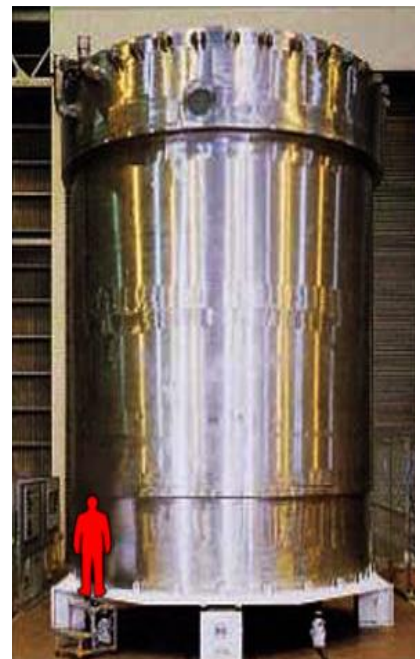
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Translation Anne



Giant vertical pumps water cooling reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. (Photo TEPCO)



Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan



Reactor n°1: stainless steel envelopes Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. (Photo TEPCO)