

VIII. Cooperation with the international community

Introduction

Japan has placed emphasis on the following points in relation to the international community over the accidents of Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station (NPS) of Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc. (TEPCO).

Firstly, the Japanese Government has made efforts, as a matter of top priority, to keep transparency by providing the international community with the information it has obtained as quickly and accurately as possible. Some of the communications, including delays of notification to neighboring countries and regions on the discharge of low-level radioactive accumulated water into the sea, have had to be improved. Subsequently, however, the Japanese Government has been improving its ways for communication delivery. (Please refer to IX below)

Regarding assistance from other countries around the world, Japan has recognized the necessity of bringing to bear the knowledge and experience accumulated within the global community on the accident, and Japan has worked closely together with those countries and has received supplies, equipment and expertise provided by them. The Japanese Government sincerely appreciates the kind and generous assistance delivered by so many countries around the world. Initially, it took some time for the Japanese Government to identify the demand for such assistance within Japan, but the Japanese Government brought about solutions by building a collaborative structure within the Government and with those countries providing assistance.

From the standpoint that Japan puts emphasis on cooperation with international organizations, the Japanese government has worked closely with international organizations including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/NEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO). A summary of the assistance received from other countries and collaborative activities with international organizations is listed below.

1. Assistance from other countries

Facing the unprecedented scale of the accidents that befell the NPS, utilization of the

accumulated experience and knowledge of the countries that operate NPSs is a very important constituent of the efforts being taken to stabilize and settle the situation from the accidents. Japan has actively utilized assistance from other countries including the provision of supplies and equipment, as well as experts.

(1) Utilization of expert knowledge

After the accident occurred, many experts visited Japan from such countries as the United States, France, Russia, the Republic of Korea, China and the United Kingdom to discuss the relevant issues with the Japanese governmental agencies and TEPCO. The Japanese side has received much advice especially on how to stabilize the reactors and spent fuel pools, how to prevent diffusion of radioactive materials and how to cope with radioactive accumulated water.

(2) Supplies and equipment from other countries

Japan has actively received supplies and equipment based on proposals offered by other countries, as the introduction of such special supplies and equipment and others was required for stabilization and settlement measures of the situation, evacuation of the residents and so on. Pumps and fire engines to be used by TEPCO for cooling the nuclear reactors and other facilities and barges for transferring fresh water and such were provided to stabilize nuclear reactors and spent fuel pools, which was an urgent issue in the early stages of the accident. Remote control robots were provided to be used in places where workers' safe access was difficult due to high levels of radiation. Japan has received dosimeters, protection suits, protection masks and such for individual workers to protect them from radiation, and photos of reactors and such taken from aircraft and such to explore effective measures. Japan also received supplies and equipment needed to process massive amounts of water containing radioactive materials. Dosimeters and protection suits for individual residents were also provided to support residents evacuated from the evacuation area, and germanium semiconductor detectors and other tools to analyze the radiation impact on the soil, water, and agricultural products. Nearly 30 countries and international organizations offered such assistance. After considering their necessity in our emergency response efforts, Japan received supplies and equipment from 10 countries and 2 international organizations in total.

2. Cooperation with international organizations

The Japanese Government has cooperated with international organizations to utilize their expertise and experience with a view to promptly stabilizing and settling the situation. From

March 18 onward, the IAEA sent to Japan the radiation measurement expert teams including a marine expert, the food monitoring team jointly with the FAO, and boiling water reactor (BWR) experts. (Please refer to Attachment VIII-1) Based on the agreement between the Japanese Government and the IAEA, the Japanese Government accepted the International Fact-Finding Expert Mission. Experts of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other organizations related to nuclear energy have visited and advised Japan.

Also, international organizations such as the IAEA, the WHO, the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization), the IMO (the International Maritime Organization), as well as the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) have provided, from technical standpoints, timely and correct information to the global community, which, for example, showed that radiation levels in and around airports and seaports in Japan did not present health or transportation safety hazards, and provided appropriate advice to those who travel to Japan.

3. Evaluation of cooperation with the international community

- (1) As mentioned in the 1 above, supplies and equipment provided from many countries to Japan to respond to the accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi NPS played an extremely important role in stabilizing the situation of reactors and other facilities.
- (2) When receiving supplies and equipment, the main reason for taking some time to identify such needs within Japan initially was that we did not have a specific structure in the Japanese Government to accommodate such assistance offered by other countries with the domestic needs. Hence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs had to communicate with relevant ministries and agencies for each of the offer to ask them consider whether the offer matches their needs or not.
- (3) In conjunction with the provision of various kinds of supplies and equipment to the sites, in many cases, information regarding those supplies and equipment, not only their names but also their specifications, such as the arm length of pump trucks, quantity and length of time required to deliver them, etc., were very important. Initially, we occasionally had difficulties in obtaining such information.
- (4) Regarding the abovementioned issues, the IAEA established the Response Assistance

Network (RANET) for emergencies to provide an important framework for offering assistance during nuclear emergencies and recommends member countries to register the names of organizations that can provide support and their fields of expertise that they can contribute to. The Japanese Government assumes the RANET would enable to respond to any accident more quickly and effectively if more specific information were registered such as the specifications of supplies and equipment which can be provided and their quantity. Although the Japanese Government itself has registered only three organizations specialized in radiotherapy and other fields so far, the Japanese Government hopes to contribute to the further development of the RANET by further promoting and expanding the scope of it.