Press Release

To Press and those who may concern,

Restriction of distribution and/or consumption of log-grown Shiitake (outdoor cultivation) produced in parts of Fukushima Prefecture, in relation to the accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant

As of 4 April 2011, the concepts of establishing and cancelling items and areas to which the restriction of distribution and/or consumption of foods concerned applies have been announced as the countermeasure policy of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters.

Based on the policy and the results of inspections conducted until today and in the lights of the Nuclear Safety Commission’s advice, the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters has issued the following instructions to Fukushima prefecture:

(1) to restrict the distribution of log-grown Shiitake (outdoor cultivation) produced in parts of the prefecture; and
(2) to restrict the consumption of log-grown Shiitake (outdoor cultivation) produced in Iitate-mura.

As of 10 April 2011, based on the advice of the Nuclear Safety Commission, MHLW requested Fukushima prefecture that it inform residents to refrain from consuming log-grown Shiitake (outdoor cultivation) produced in Iitate-mura, including personal consumption.

1. The instruction of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters to Fukushima prefecture as of today is attached.
2. MHLW’s response on the above instruction is that it coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and takes necessary measures including requesting to Fukushima prefecture that it strengthens monitoring tests for municipalities where inspections have not been conducted.
3. The list of the Instructions on the restriction of distribution and/or consumption of food concerned in accordance with the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness is attached as reference.
Article 20

(3) In addition to the instructions under the provisions of the preceding paragraph, when the director-general of the nuclear emergency response headquarters finds it especially necessary for implementing emergency response measures accurately and promptly in the emergency response measures implementation area covered by said nuclear emergency response headquarters, he/she may, within the limit necessary, give necessary instructions to the heads of the relevant designated administrative organs and the heads of the relevant designated local administrative organs, and the officials of said designated administrative organs and the officials of said designated local administrative organs to whom his/her authority has been delegated pursuant to the provisions of the preceding Article, the heads of local governments and other executive organs, designated public institutions and designated local public institutions, and nuclear operators.
From Prime Minister Naoto Kan, Director-General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters
To Governor of Fukushima Prefecture,

Recognizing the accident occurred at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant operated by TEPCO Co. LTD, the following order shall take place, under the authority of the Director-General of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters, following Article 20.3 of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness (Act No. 156, 1999):

1. Requests shall apply to heads of relevant municipalities, food business operators concerned and residents not to consume log-grown Shiitake (outdoor cultivation) produced in Iitate-mura.
2. Requests shall apply to heads of relevant municipalities and food business operators concerned not to distribute log-grown Shiitake (outdoor cultivation) produced in Date-shi, Souma-shi, Minamisouma-shi, Tamura-shi, Iwaki-shi, Shinchi-machi, Kawamata-machi, Namie-machi, Futaba-machi, Okuma-machi, Tomioka-machi, Naraha-machi, Hirono-machi, Iitate-mura, Katsurao-mura and Kawauchi-mura.