

Safety Information of Japan Update

As of 26 April 2011

Summary

...Public health risks beyond the 30km evacuation zone around the plant are currently still low. (World Health Organization (WHO))

...The United Nations organizations (WHO, IAEA, UNWTO, WMO, IMO, ICAO, ILO) closely monitoring the effects of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi plant remain confident that radiation levels do not present health or transportation safety hazards to passengers and crew. (World Tourism Organization (UNWTO))

...The International Air Transport Association (IATA) welcomed confirmation from six United Nations (UN) agencies monitoring Japan's damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant that there is no health or transportation safety hazard. (International Air Transport Association (IATA))

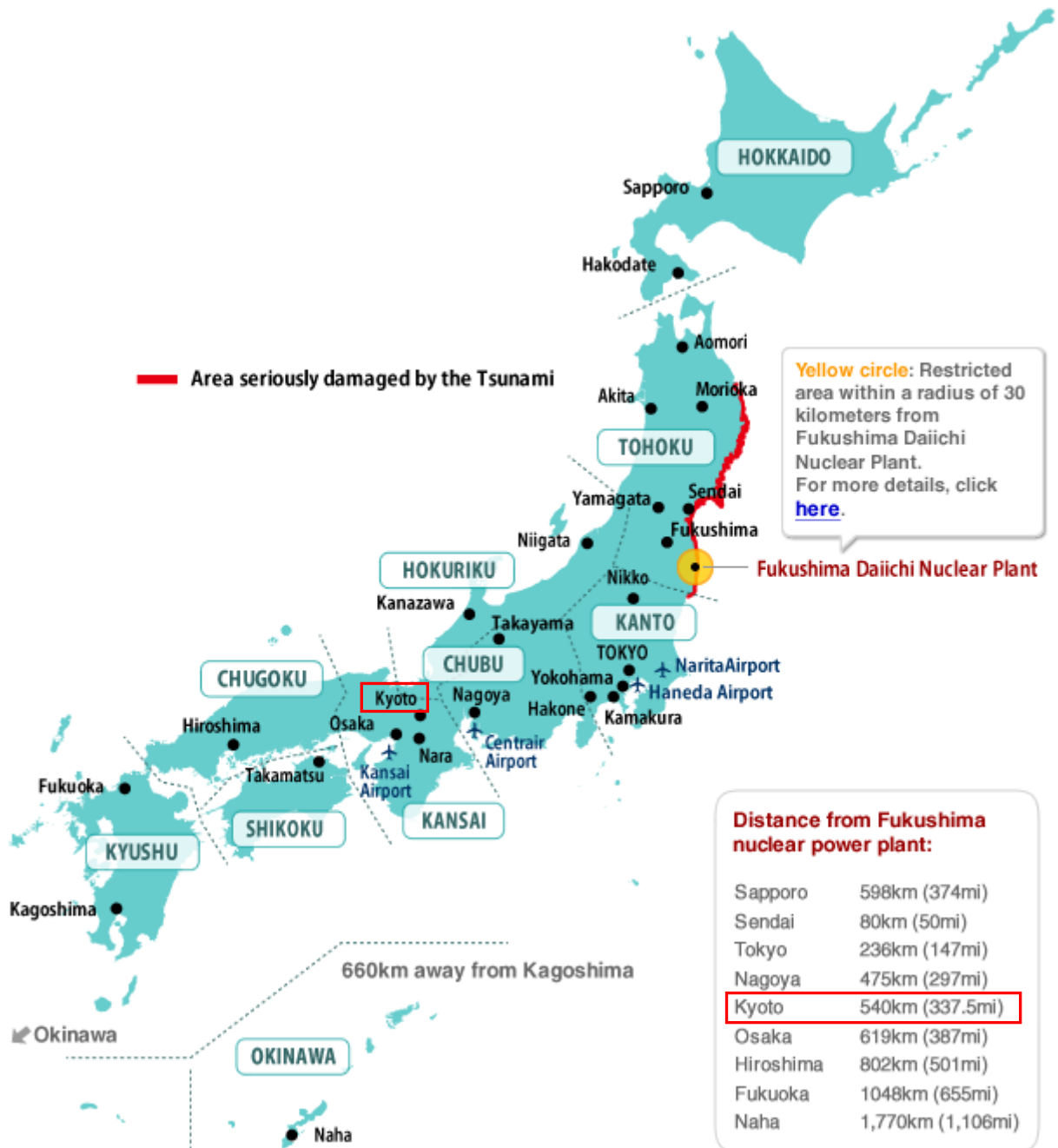
...the health and safety risks to areas beyond the 50 mile evacuation zone, and particularly to Tokyo, Nagoya (Aichi Prefecture), Yokohama (Kanagawa Prefecture) nearby U.S. military facilities and the prefectures of Akita, Aomori, Chiba, Gunma, Iwate, Nagano, Niigata, Saitama, Shizuoka, Tochigi, and Yamanashi, and those portions of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi and Yamagata prefectures which are outside a 50 mile radius of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant are low and do not pose significant risks to U.S. citizens.(US Department of State)

...All the airports in Japan, including four major airports, Narita, Tokyo International (Haneda), Kansai (Osaka) and Central Japan/Centrair (Nagoya), and with the exception of Sendai which was directly affected by the tsunami, have been operating normally and functioning as the bases for the rescue and reconstruction of the disaster-stricken areas since the immediate aftermath of the earthquake.(Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Japan)

...Kyoto is safe. Kyoto's accommodation and major transportation facilities etc., including access from Kansai International Airport, are operating as normal. By providing the maximum possible aid goods and dispatch of personnel etc., relief work and reconstruction support are currently being carried out for the disaster-stricken areas. Kyoto fortunately did not suffer any damage but takes this opportunity of sending out a message of encouragement towards the reconstruction of entire Japan. (City of Kyoto)

Overview of Japan

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eg/eng/03_attraction.htm



Frequently Asked Questions

http://www.jnto.go.jp/eq/eng/05_other.htm

Can I still visit Japan?

Many parts of Japan, including popular holiday destinations such as Hokkaido, Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Okinawa, are outside the area affected by the earthquake and tsunami and received no disruption to infrastructure. Everything in these areas continues to operate as normal.

Train services in and around Tokyo were restored soon after the earthquake. Visitors to Tokyo can use public transport to travel around the city. Some hotels and other businesses have shortened business hours, so it is recommended to check their websites in advance.

North-eastern Tohoku is the area that was worst affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Due to the destruction of necessary services and the ongoing disaster relief activities in this area, visitors are asked to refrain from visiting the area and travel within the exclusion zone surrounding the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is currently prohibited.

The Fukushima power plant is 200 kilometers north of Tokyo, 580 kilometers from Osaka and 1,770 kilometers from Okinawa.

A joint statement from the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization has reaffirmed that there is no current restriction on international flights, and operations can continue normally into and out of Japan's major airports and sea ports. Commercial flights are operating at all airports except for Sendai Airport.

Can I travel around the country on public transport?

Transport networks, such as roads, railways, airports and ports, are now almost completely back to normal outside the disaster zone. Visitors to Japan can use public transport to travel around all major cities

– eg. Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka – and the bullet train network to travel between cities such as Tokyo and Kyoto and Osaka and Hiroshima.

In disaster affected areas, most main roads including expressways have recovered and the rail network has recovered. The Tohoku bullet train line is being reopened in sections, with full recovery scheduled by then end of April. For aviation, all airports except

Sendai Airport are open and in operation. For maritime transport, all ports are open and in operation with certain limitations.

What about the situation of radiation in Japan?

What about the situation of radiation in Japan? Areas outside the 30 kilometer exclusion zone surrounding the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear power plant have been evaluated to have permissible levels of radiation.

Environmental radioactivity levels by prefecture, including Tokyo, are monitored constantly and the readings are readily available to the general public.

Is the food & water safe?

Water

Tap water can be used for washing hands, bathing and drinking. For anyone who would prefer to drink bottled water, it is readily available in supermarkets and convenience stores.

Radioactive materials in tap water are monitored everyday. For more information, please refer to the Japanese Government's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/index.html>

Food

Radioactive materials in food products are monitored everyday. The Government of Japan restricts distribution and consumption of food products which contains radiation level exceeding the standard which is set by the Government.

For more information, please refer to the Japanese Government's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's

<http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/topics/2011eq/index.html>

Information from International Organizations

http://www.into.go.jp/eq/eng/01_information.htm

World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

UN agencies: current situation poses no risk to travel to and from Japan. (15 April 2011)

The United Nations organizations (WHO, IAEA, UNWTO, WMO, IMO, ICAO, ILO) closely monitoring the effects of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi plant remain confident that radiation levels do not present health or transportation safety hazards to passengers and crew.

http://85.62.13.114/media/news/en/press_det.php?id=7701&idioma=E

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

[IAEA View (from Jiji Press Co.)]

Mr. Denis Flory, Deputy Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) held a press conference at the headquarters in Vienna on April 12, responding to the report announcing provisional assessment by the INES (International Nuclear Event Scale) was lifted to the worst "Level 7," equivalent to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident, and indicated that both accidents are "absolutely different in view of structure and scale."

The Deputy Secretariat explained that while Chernobyl Nuclear Plant exploded the nuclear reactor, Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Power Plant automatically stopped after the East Japan Great Earthquake. Furthermore, while the volume of radioactive materials emitted at the "Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant was 370,000 tera-bequerels (tera=1 trillion)," that at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant reached 5,200,000 tera-bequerels," he emphasized of difference in scale.

<http://jen.jiji.com/jc/eng?q=eco&k=2011041300124>

World Health Organization (WHO)

Health action in crises

[Japan: public health risks beyond the 30km evacuation zone currently still low]

13 April -- On 11 April, the Japanese authorities recategorized the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant as a level 7 incident on the International Nuclear Event Scale. Public health risks beyond the 30km evacuation zone around the plant are currently still low. The latest monitoring of radiation levels in air, drinking water and soil reveal declines in all three. Local authorities

review restrictions on food sales on a weekly basis. The International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) - a joint WHO/FAO initiative - provides regular updates to the 177 countries belonging to the network, one of which is Japan.

<http://www.who.int/hac/crises/jpn/en/index.html>

FAQs: Japan nuclear concerns

[Travel advice]

Q : What is the WHO travel advice for Japan?

A :

* At this time, WHO is not advising general restrictions on travel to Japan.

* However, travellers should avoid travel to the areas most affected by the earthquake and tsunami because of disruptions to essential services, such as transport and electric power. The ongoing disaster relief activities, including the nuclear power plant emergency response and control activities, will make travel difficult and could consume resources needed by relief workers and residents. Moreover, as indicated by the Japanese authorities, travel within the evacuation and exclusion zones surrounding the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is currently prohibited.

* In general, travellers who do not have essential reasons to travel should give careful consideration to deferring travel to any areas where there has been considerable disruption to the normal infrastructure and where authorities are responding to urgent humanitarian needs.

<http://www.who.int/hac/crises/jpn/faqs/en/index3.html>

[Water contamination]

Q : Can I drink the tap water in Japan?

A :

* Drinking tap water in Japan poses no immediate health risk, but local conditions will differ and may fluctuate.

* The Japanese authorities are closely monitoring the situation and are issuing advice, when needed, against consumption of tap water, including specific recommendations for infants. Essential hydration of infants should not be compromised in an attempt to reduce exposure to radionuclide contamination.

* The standards adopted by the Japanese authorities for this emergency are precautionary. Currently, radioactive iodine is the most common detected contaminant; the standard for adults is 300 Becquerels per litre in drinking-water. In the very unlikely scenario that drinking-water was contaminated and consumed for an entire year at this level, the additional radiation exposure from this water would be equivalent to natural background radiation during one year.

* WHO urges people in the area to heed the advice of local authorities, as they will have access to the latest measurements of radiation levels in water to compare against the standards for adults and children.

<http://www.who.int/hac/crises/jpn/faqs/en/index8.html>

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) issued the following statement titled "CURRENT SITUATION FOR TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT TO AND FROM JAPAN" on 14 April 2011.

<http://www2.icao.int/en/NewsRoom/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=40&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fwww2%2Eicao%2Eint%2Fen%2Fnewsroom%2Fdefault%2Easpx>

The United Nations organizations closely monitoring the effects of the damaged Fukushima Daiichi plant remain confident that current radiation levels do not present health or transportation safety hazards to passengers and crew.

On 18 March, based on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (INES)*, the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry assessed the significance rating of the accident at the plant as Level 5. On 12 April, this assessment was revised to Level 7 following information obtained from estimations of the amount of radioactive material discharged to the atmosphere.

Radiation monitoring around airports and seaports in Japan continues to confirm that levels remain well within safe limits from a health perspective. In addition, monitoring of passengers, crew and cargo from Japan carried out to date in other countries, in accordance with their national policy, does not suggest any health or safety risk. Therefore, screening of radiation for health and safety purposes is currently considered unnecessary at airports and seaports around the world.

*Information concerning travel and transport to and from Japan by air or sea is not dependent on the INES rating.

For updates, travelers visiting Japan by air are advised to consult a dedicated website established by the Japanese Civil Aviation Bureau : http://www.mlit.go.jp/koku/flyjapan_en/

Further information covering all aspects of the response of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, as well as information regarding the radiation dose in Tokyo Bay and at sea in the region can be found on the following websites :

http://www.mlit.go.jp/page/kanbo01_hy_001411.html

http://www.mlit.go.jp/kowan/kowan_fr1_000041.html

http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr1_000007.html

The UN agencies involved in the monitoring process are the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Tourism Organization and the International Labour Organization.

Further information concerning health aspects is available on the website of the World Health Organization - <http://www.who.int>

[Link to ICAO Press Release.](#)

[CURRENT RADIATION LEVELS IN JAPAN AND TRAVEL ADVICE] - 1 April 2011.

<http://www2.icao.int/en/NewsRoom/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=39>

[NO RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL TO JAPAN] - 18 March 2011.

<http://www2.icao.int/en/NewsRoom/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=37>

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

Representing major airlines of the world, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) issued the following statement, fully supporting the ICAO's message, on 19 March 2011.

<http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/Pages/2011-03-18-02.aspx>

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) welcomed the joint statement issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), on the continued safety of air transport operations in Japan. These five organizations confirmed that there are no restrictions to normal air transport operations at Japan's major airports, including both Haneda and Narita.

"Safety is our number one priority. If it is not safe, we won't fly. Today's joint statement by the five most authoritative United Nations (UN) organizations on air transport, nuclear energy, shipping, health and weather confirms that it is safe to operate in Japan," said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO.

The ICAO statement further confirmed that there are no health reasons that would require the screening of passengers emanating from Japan. Moreover the Organizations confirmed that there is no health risk associated with increased levels of radiation that have been detected at some airports. Although not recommended by the UN organizations, several states are implementing screening programs for passengers and flights from Japan. As these measures are not being coordinated among governments, IATA is tracking developments at www.iata.org/japan-measures.

"The combination of crises impacting Japan today is unprecedented. But global standards and best practices exist to protect the safety of all concerned. We must follow the joint advice of these authoritative global bodies to provide the best advice to the industry, its employees, travelers and shippers. The situation is evolving quickly and is being constantly monitored. Today the advice is that normal operations are possible. If the advice changes, the industry will comply and transparently keep all informed of the developments," said Bisignani

"Effective air links are critically important at this time. Our members are rising to the challenge of bringing relief supplies, equipment and people to Japan as well as connecting families affected by this tragedy," said Bisignani.

Representing major airlines of the world, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) issued the following statement, fully supporting the ICAO's message, on 1 April 2011.

<http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/Pages/2011-04-01-01.aspx>

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) welcomed confirmation from six United Nations (UN) agencies monitoring Japan's damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant that there is no health or transportation safety hazard. The UN statement also confirmed that screening for radiation of passengers arriving from Japan is currently considered unnecessary at airports or seaports around the world.

The joint statement was prepared by the World Health Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and the World Tourism Organization.

According to the UN statement, continuous monitoring around Japan's airports confirms that radiation levels are well within safe limits from a health perspective. For updates, travelers visiting Japan by air are advised to consult a dedicated website established by the Japanese Civil Aviation Bureau: http://www.mlit.go.jp/koku/flyjapan_en/

"Safety is always the top priority. The transparent and continuous monitoring of the situation has allowed Japanese and international authorities to confirm that Japan's airports remain open and safe for travelers and transport workers. It is important that governments and industry respond to the challenges of this crisis with best practices supported by expert advice. We are reassured that the UN is not recommending screening measures for passengers coming from Japan," said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO.

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

IMO – the International Maritime Organization – is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.

<http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/17-radiation-.aspx>

Radioactive material from the damaged Fukushima Daiichi plant is gradually spreading outside Japan into the global atmosphere but at extremely low concentrations that do not present health or transportation safety hazards, according to the United Nations organizations closely monitoring the situation.

Japanese authorities confirm that all airports in the country, with the exception of Sendai which was affected by the tsunami of 11 March, continue to operate normally for both international and domestic operations. Continuous monitoring around these airports confirms that radiation levels are well within safe limits from a health perspective.

For updates, travellers visiting Japan by air are advised to consult a dedicated website established by the Japanese Civil Aviation Bureau:
http://www.mlit.go.jp/koku/flyjapan_en/.

Japanese authorities also confirm that all international seaports not damaged by the earthquake and tsunami are operating normally and that no health risk has been detected around the ports, based on the results of measurements of radiation levels by local governments.

Further information covering all aspects of the response of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, as well as information regarding the radiation dose in Tokyo Bay can be found on the following websites:

http://www.mlit.go.jp/page/kanbo01_hy_001411.html

http://www.mlit.go.jp/kowan/kowan_fr1_000041.html

Screening for radiation of passengers arriving from Japan is currently considered unnecessary at airports or seaports around the world.

Travel Alert Information Update

As of 26 April 2011

United States of America (USA)

Travel Alert U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1148.html

April 14, 2011

This Travel Alert replaces the Travel Warning for Japan dated March 31, 2011. This Travel Alert expires on June 15, 2011.

The assessment of technical and subject matter experts across United States Government agencies is that while the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi plant remains serious and dynamic, the health and safety risks to areas beyond the 50 mile evacuation zone, and particularly to Tokyo, Nagoya (Aichi Prefecture), Yokohama (Kanagawa Prefecture) nearby U.S. military facilities and the prefectures of Akita, Aomori, Chiba, Gunma, Iwate, Nagano, Niigata, Saitama, Shizuoka, Tochigi, and Yamanashi, and those portions of Fukushima, Ibaraki, Miyagi and Yamagata prefectures which are outside a 50 mile radius of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant are low and do not pose significant risks to U.S. citizens.

This analysis takes into consideration both various age groups and the classification of the severity of the situation at Fukushima Daiichi as a Level 7 event by the Government of Japan, which reflects what has transpired since the initial incident and the potential long-term effects in the area surrounding the plant.

This assessment reflects inputs from our national laboratories as well as the unanimous opinion of the U.S. scientific experts on the ground in Japan. Furthermore, they are consistent with practices that would be taken in the United States in such a situation. Based on the much reduced rate of heat generation in the reactor fuel after one month of cooling and the corresponding decay of short-lived radioactive isotopes, even in the event of an unexpected disruption at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, harmful exposures to people beyond the 50 mile evacuation zone are highly unlikely, and there would be a significant amount of time to best assess any steps that might have to be taken.

The situation at the plant is dramatically different today than it was on March 16, when we saw significant ongoing releases of radioactivity, the loss of effective means to cool the reactor cores and spent fuel, the absence of outside power or fresh water supply for emergency management, and considerable uncertainty about the condition of the site. Today, while the situation remains serious, and there is still a possibility of unanticipated developments, cooling efforts are ongoing and successful, power, water supply, and back-up services have been partially or fully restored, and planning has begun to control radioactive contamination and mitigate future dangers. Our

coordination with the Japanese is regular and productive, and we have a greatly increased capacity to measure and analyze risks.

The Department of State has lifted Voluntary Authorized Departure, allowing dependents of the U.S. government employees to return to Japan.

We continue to recommend that U.S. citizens avoid travel within the 50-mile radius of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant. U.S. citizens who are still within this radius should evacuate or shelter in place.

Japan is one of the most seismically active places in the world. Tokyo and areas to the Northeast continue to experience strong aftershocks related to the March 11 earthquake. Aftershocks following an earthquake of this magnitude can be expected to continue for more than a year. Identifying potential hazards ahead of time and advance planning can reduce the dangers of serious injury or loss of life from an earthquake. See the Embassy Website for detailed information on earthquake safety:

<http://japan.usembassy.gov>.

United Kingdom (UK)

Travel Summary

Still current at: 26 April 2011, Updated: 21 April 2011

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/asia-oceania/japan>

We advise against all but essential travel to those areas in north-east Japan most affected by the earthquake and the tsunami. These areas continue to suffer disruptions to residential, business and transport infrastructure and you may wish to consult local contacts before travelling.

As an additional precautionary measure, we advise British nationals to remain outside a 60km radius (rather than the previous 80km radius) of the Fukushima nuclear facility. This is based on the latest scientific advice from the Scientific Advisory Group in Emergencies (SAGE). The Tokyo Metropolitan area and Narita airport lie outside this zone. Any British nationals within 60km of the facility are advised to leave the area or take shelter indoors.

There is a continuing risk of aftershocks and tsunamis throughout Japan. Latest tsunami warnings and advisories are published on the Japan Meteorological Agency website.

British nationals should follow the precautionary measures set out below if radiation levels increase in any significant way. These include following the advice of the Japanese authorities, taking care with food and water, and in certain circumstances, taking shelter. In view of the advice below the British Embassy in Tokyo is no longer distributing iodine tablets.

In the event of reports of contamination of the ground, food or water supplies, we advise British nationals to follow the advice of the relevant Japanese

authorities, which might include asking people to leave the area to avoid long term exposure.

Nuclear

The Japanese Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) announced on 12 April that it had raised the provisional nuclear accident severity level at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, from level 5 to level 7 on the International Nuclear Event Scale. NISA explained this followed a re-evaluation of the amount of radiation released between 11 March and 5 April. It does not imply a further deterioration in the situation or any new release of radioactivity.

The Japanese authorities continue to provide regular updates on developments at Fukushima. This includes actions being taken to stabilise the reactor units at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and to minimise the release of radioactive material into the local environment. We recognise that at times a controlled release may be necessary but it does not affect the overall assessment in this Travel Advice. Although the situation at Fukushima will remain of concern for some time, the risks are gradually declining as the reactors cool and as facilities to stabilise them are established.

We urge British nationals to observe the advice being given by the Japanese authorities. On 21 April, the Japanese Government designated the 20km zone around the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant a restricted area. Anyone entering the 20km area illegally is liable to a fine of up to 100,000 yen (approx £735) or detention. The Japanese Government advises residents between 20-30km from the Plant to remain indoors or leave. This area, as well as some areas outside 30km, will be designated as either Planned Evacuation Areas or Areas for Evacuation Preparedness under plans to manage the evacuation zone more precisely.

Any British nationals currently within 60km of the facility are advised to leave the area or take shelter indoors.

SAGE, chaired by the Chief Scientific Adviser, has been examining possible worst case scenarios. Even in these worst cases, it considers that the risks to human health beyond the exclusion zone set up by the Japanese authorities could be managed by precautionary measures, in particular staying indoors to avoid exposure. Read the transcript the UK's Chief Scientific Adviser's teleconference with the British community in Tokyo and a summary of frequently asked questions.

France

Health action in crises

Last Updated: April 14, 2011.

http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs_909/pays_12191/japon_12268/index.html

<Check Original in French>

1 One month after the earthquake and tsunami of 11 March, and nuclear accidents that followed, numerous strong aftershocks occur and can be felt in many parts of Japan including Tokyo. Moreover, the situation of nuclear reactors in Fukushima remains problematic and fragile and this is likely over time (medium to long term).

2 Movements in the prefectures of Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki and Tochigi are therefore strongly discouraged. In contrast, reside or travel in Tokyo does not currently a risk to health. Reside or travel in the rest of the country does not pose any particular problem.

Switzerland

Earthquake in Japan / Travel advice

http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rebs/asia/vjpn/embjpn.html#ContentPar_0021

The FDFA advises against travelling for any reason in the crisis zone in the north-east of Japan.

The FDFA advises all Swiss citizens currently living in the crisis zone in north-east Japan to leave the region for the time being. The decision to leave is an individual decision.

Damaged nuclear power plant Fukushima-Daiichi

The earthquake and following Tsunamis caused significant damages to the nuclear power plant Fukushima-Daiichi. A series of subsequent explosions at Fukushima-Daiichi destroyed the outer reactor walls of several reactor units and causes the release of radioactivity.

Emergency procedures are in place and evacuations were carried through in a 20km radius around Fukushima-Daiichi. In addition, the Japanese authorities advises the population living within a radius of 20-30km from Fukushima-Daiichi to evacuate their homes, if it is possible and safe to do so, or to stay inside and turn off ventilation. Based on the currently available information the Japanese authorities conclude that there is no immediate radiological danger in Japan outside the radius of 30km around the nuclear power plant Fukushima-Daiichi. However, the situation remains highly uncertain.

Swiss citizens living in Japan are requested to follow the instructions of the Japanese authorities and follow the imposed safety measures in the areas of the nuclear reactors

Australia

This Advice is current for Tuesday, 26 April 2011

<http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/Japan>

This travel advice for Japan should be read in conjunction with our Travel Bulletin: Information on radiation for Australians in Japan which contains advice from the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) and the Department of Health and Aging (DOHA) for Australians in Japan and those returning from Japan who have concerns about possible exposure to radiation.

We advise you to exercise a high degree of caution in Japan due to ongoing concern about the status of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant.

The earthquake of 11 March 2011 and subsequent tsunami caused significant damage to areas along the north east coast of Japan. There were significant casualties.

We advise you not to travel to Ibaraki, Tochigi, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures, including the 80 kilometre exclusion zone, unless your presence there is essential, due to limitations on essential services, infrastructure damage, and ongoing concern about the status of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant.

On 12 April 2011, the Japanese Nuclear Industrial Safety Agency reassessed the accident severity level for the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant from 5 to 7 on the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale. ARPANSA has no information that indicates that this is based on any new deterioration at the plant or any new, more serious release of radiation from the plant. ARPANSA assesses that the risk in Tokyo remains the same – the radiological risk to human health is of low concern. The decision to raise the accident severity level has been made as a technical adjustment based on an assessment of the cumulative release of radioactivity from the plant. Radioactive releases from the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant only have significant effects in the vicinity of the plant, which is covered by the exclusion zone currently in effect. There is no information indicating that the change in the accident severity level is related to the 7.0 magnitude aftershock which occurred on 11 April 2011 off the coast of Fukushima.

On 17 March 2011, ARPANSA recommended that Australians within 80 kilometres of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant move out of the area as a precautionary measure.

Advice on exposure to radiation arising from nuclear incidents in Japan is on the ARPANSA website and is reproduced in our Travel Bulletin: Information on radiation for Australians in Japan.

Transport and other services in parts of Japan west of Tokyo and surrounding areas have returned to normal operation.

New Zealand

Japan: Advice on travel

Reviewed: 21 April 2011, 16:40 NZDT, Still current at: 26 April 2011

<http://www.safetravel.govt.nz/destinations/japan.shtml>

We advise against all travel within 80 kilometres of the Fukushima nuclear power plant. The Japanese Government has put in place a mandatory 20 kilometre exclusion zone around the Fukushima nuclear facility. As an additional precautionary measure we advise New Zealanders within 80 kilometres of the Fukushima nuclear power plant to evacuate the area.

We advise against all tourist and other non-essential travel in areas of north east Honshu most directly affected by the earthquake and tsunami. There is significant disruption to essential services and utilities in these areas, some damage to infrastructure and shortages of essential goods at times. In addition, aftershocks continue to occur, although as time goes by these are becoming smaller in magnitude.

A magnitude 9 earthquake struck Japan on 11 March 2011 and aftershocks are continuing. The subsequent tsunami caused significant damage to areas along the north east coast of Japan with over 13,000 people killed and over 14,000 people unaccounted for.

The earthquake also caused major damage to the Fukushima nuclear power plant. In the interests of public safety, the Japanese authorities evacuated all residents within a 20 kilometre radius of the nuclear power plant. On 15 March 2011, the Japanese authorities advised residents within 20-30 kilometres of the power plant to remain indoors, keep windows and doors closed and not use ventilation systems. The Japanese authorities have subsequently encouraged voluntary departure from the 30 kilometre zone and some specific adjacent areas in which individuals may be exposed to unacceptably high levels of radiation.

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission has provided a Protective Action Recommendation to US residents in Japan that it is appropriate for US residents within 80 kilometres (50 miles) of the Fukushima facility to evacuate. On 17 March 2011, the New Zealand National Radiation Laboratory (NRL) advised New Zealanders within 80 kilometres of the Fukushima nuclear power plant to evacuate the area as a precautionary measure.

New Zealanders currently in Tokyo are advised to take appropriate precautions when travelling around the city due to ongoing aftershocks. The New Zealand National Radiation Laboratory has advised that there is no radiation safety hazard in Tokyo at this time. The International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) Director General said in Tokyo on 18 March 2011, that current radiation levels in Tokyo were not harmful to human health. New Zealand's National Radiation Laboratory continues to monitor the situation closely.

International Meetings and Visitors from Overseas after the Earthquake on 11 March 2011

Visitors from Overseas

Prime Minister Kan had meetings with

- President Sarkozy of France (March 31, 2011)
- Prime Minister Gillard of Australia (April 21, 2011)
- Secretary of State Clinton of US (April 17, 2011)
- Director General Amano of the IAEA (March 18, 2011)
- Secretary General Gurría of OECD (April 22, 2011)

Minister for Foreign Affairs Matsumoto met with

- Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi of China,
- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Kim Sung-hwan of the ROK,
- Foreign Minister Westerwelle of Germany,
- Foreign Minister Timerman of Argentina
- Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Asselborn of Luxembourg;
- Minister of External Relations Patriota of the Federative Republic of Brazil
- Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Immigration Polye of Papua New Guinea

International Meetings

Fifth Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Japan, China, and ROK (March 19, 2011)

The Fifth Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting of Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Korea convened in Kyoto, Japan.

Eighth Economic & Trade Ministers' Meeting among Japan, China and ROK (April 24, 2011)

The Eighth Economic & Trade Ministers' Meeting among Japan, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea was held in Tokyo on April 24. Mr. Banri Kaieda, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry chaired, and Mr. Chen Deming, Minister of Commerce of China and Mr. Kim Jong-hoon, Minister for Trade of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Korea attended.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Follow-up Meeting (June 2nd-3rd, 2011)

On Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3, the Government of Japan will hold the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Follow-up Meeting in Tokyo, co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Ministers and representatives of international organizations and civil society will participate in the meeting.

Information from the Government of Japan

Earthquake Information

Japan Meteorological Agency

<http://www.jma.go.jp/en/quake/>

Information about Radiation

Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency

<http://www.nisa.meti.go.jp/english/>

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

<http://www.iaea.org/>

Reading of environmental radioactivity level (MEXT)

http://www.mext.go.jp/english/radioactivity_level/

The latest radiation updates around Tokyo metropolitan airports (Narita and Haneda) (MLIT)

http://www.mlit.go.jp/koku/koku_tk7_000003.html

The latest radiation updates around the Port of Tokyo and Yokohama (MLIT)

http://www.mlit.go.jp/kowan/kowan_fr1_000041.html

Environmental Radioactivity Measurement

http://eq.wide.ad.jp/index_en.html

WHO Centre for Health Development (WKC)

<http://www.who.or.jp/>

National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS)

<http://www.nirs.go.jp/ENG/>

Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research

<http://www.tufs.ac.jp/blog/ts/g/cemmer/>

Information from Japanese Government

Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet

<http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/incident/>

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan

http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/incidents/

[To foreign nationals who wish to postpone their visit to Japan owing to the Tohoku - Pacific Ocean Earthquake](#)

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

<http://www.mext.go.jp/english/topics/1303717.htm>

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

[Japanese Air Transport after the Earthquake](#)

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

[Information about the Great East Japan Earthquake^{new}](#)

Information from City of Kyoto

<http://www.kyoto.travel/>