

**The 9th meeting of the Investigation Committee on the Accident at Fukushima
Nuclear Power Stations of Tokyo Electric Power Company
Comments Made by Chairperson of the Committee Dr. Hatamura
at the Press Conference**

Date and time: from 17:30, Monday, March 12, 2012
Venue: Meeting room 401, JA Building, Otemachi Conference Center

Today, we held the ninth meeting of the Investigation Committee on the Accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Stations of Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO).

By yesterday, a year has past since the outbreak of the Fukushima nuclear accident. Even now, many of the citizens who have evacuated from the affected areas are forced to live away from their homes as the problem of radioactive contamination persists.

We wish to remember such state of affairs in disaster-struck areas and the troubles experienced by the citizens of these areas as we continue our investigation toward the preparation of the final report.

In the meeting of today, the status of investigation after the preparation of the interim report was reported mainly by members of the Secretariat, and this was followed by the exchange of opinions.

The Secretariat gave us a detailed report on the status of investigation, reminding us that there are still many issues to be address before the preparation of the final report.

As to the status of investigation after the preparation of the interim report, I would like to mention today particularity about the progress we have made in the interviewing of concerned individuals.

As stated in the interim report, the Investigation Committee had interviewed 456 concerned individuals by December 16 of the last year, and the total duration of interview had reached approximately 900 hours.

We continued the interviewing of concerned individuals even after that, and the total number of persons interviewed by us has amounted to 585 persons by March 9 (Friday) and the total duration of interview has reached approximately 1,202 hours.

The above-mentioned total number of interviewed individuals is literally the total number of interviewed individuals and I am not referring to the total number of sessions.

As to the interviewing of politicians, I have announced on December 26 of the last year (at the press conference we held to announce the release of the interim report) that we had interviews with Mr. Goshi Hosono (Minister of the Environment, former Special Advisor to the Prime Minister) and Mr. Seiki Soramoto (Member of the House of Representatives).

We had interviews with other politicians after the preparation of the interim report.

The following is the list of politicians we have interviewed, given in the chronological order of interviews:

- January 17: Mr. Manabu Terata, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister
- January 24: Mr. Tadahiro Matsushita, former Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
- January 31: Mr. Yoshiaki Takagi, former Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- February 2: Mr. Akihisa Nagashima, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister
- February 8 and 13: Mr. Banri Kaieda, former Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
- February 9: Mr. Motohisa Ikeda, former Deputy Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
- February 15 and 28: Mr. Tetsuro Fukuyama, former Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary
- February 23 and March 7: Mr. Kan Suzuki, former Deputy Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

At different stages of further investigation toward the preparation of the final report, we will continue to conduct necessary interviews with concerned individuals including politicians.

In the previous meeting we held on February 24 and 25 with the participation of international experts, we received very valuable suggestions and advices from the international experts.

It might be superfluous to tell you now about what we discussed in that meeting because all discussions were open to hearing. Still I would like to repeat that the meeting reminded us of the need to discuss issues from larger perspectives with attention to topics such as the development of safety culture, the approach to risk communication, and the roles of utilities and of regulatory bodies.

This is all for today. Thank you for your kind attention.