

## **The 4th meeting of the Investigation Committee on the Accidents at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Stations of Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)**

Press conference by Chairperson of the Committee Dr. Hatamura

Date/Time: October 28, 2011, Fri. From 17:30

Venue: Assembly Room, Sangoukan, Otemachi Joint Government Building

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

The previous meeting, or the third meeting, was held on September 27. At that meeting, we received detailed reports on the investigation status for the roughly three-month period from July through to September, and we made good progress in putting together the content that will form the basis of the interim report.

There was also discussion on those items that still needed to be investigated and on matters that needed to be supplemented or added. At today's meeting, the Secretariat outlined the results of investigations conducted based on those previous discussions, and we began to examine the substance of this.

This is still a draft idea which serves as a basis for discussion, and is not yet something which is definitely fixed. We have, however, reached a stage where we can at last get an overview of the things we have investigated so far and the things we have sought to make clear. I think we have finally reached a stage where the whole picture has come into view, brought to light by the recent phase of investigation. We are now in a position to go into fairly specific detail and deepen our examination.

Today is October 28, which means that there are two months until we release the interim report. Time is getting very tight.

I think we have found out a considerable amount so far, but of utmost importance in the interim report will be what we have learnt from our investigations. As a Committee, what do we think about the facts that have been identified? How do we evaluate them? What is important and what perspectives will be needed for the further investigation? What kind of perception or the way of thinking should be taken by the general public? I think we have to proceed to a stage of offering opinions and suggestions.

Although our investigations are still ongoing, I think, by and large, a considerable amount of content examined so far has been brought to light in our own way. However, even though our investigations will continue, we are entering a stage where, we will have to work out in concrete terms things like what we think and what suggestions we will make to the world based on what we have understood as a Committee.

With 12 people in total—10 Committee Members and 2 Technical Advisors—we have conducted a wide range of discussions and activities. However, given that we cannot compose any specific wording without first determining who will be responsible for writing the report, we decided to create a working group. The members of the working group have already been nominated. Besides myself (Chairperson),

there is the Vice Chairperson of the Committee, Mr. Yanagida, and Committee Members, Mr. Takasu and Mr. Takano, as well as both Technical Advisors, Mr. Abe and Dr. Fuchigami.

Going forward, we will continue to ask the Secretariat to conduct the fact-finding that is still required. The working group I mentioned just now will look at the evaluations and views of the Committee as well as the things we have understood and any suggestions requiring further examination, and it will consider which of these to include in the interim report, to what extent should be included, and specifically how to write the report.

There is also something a little different that we are planning to do from now on. We are thinking of seeking the views of the heads of the local governments affected by the disaster.

One thing that I have been saying for a while is the importance of the “3 Gens,” namely: Genchi (on-site), Genbutsu (actual things) and Genjin (person on-site). Up to now, we have headed out to various local sites and seen things for real, seen the overall atmosphere of local sites, spoken with local people, and respectfully listened to what they thought, what they saw and what they expected.

We have in fact been to some fairly diverse local sites. For instance, the Fukushima Daiichi and Daini Nuclear Power Stations. In terms of “person on-site”, we also held interviews with Mr. Yoshida, the General Manager of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. In addition to this, we have also seen other related nuclear power stations and thermal power stations. In this way, we have made considerable efforts, seeking to capture an overall picture which could not really be obtained just by looking at a single nuclear power station.

Following what happened to this nuclear power station in the earthquake and tsunami, radioactive material was dispersed, leading to this tremendous accident. We would like to directly approach the people affected by this accident and listen to their views and opinions.

Therefore, with this in mind, we have made arrangements to meet and talk with the heads of the local governments affected by the disaster. We have organized for me (Chairman) and some of the other Committee Members to meet with the mayors of the towns of Okuma and Futaba, where the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station is located, on Wednesday, November 9. Residents in both towns still have to live in evacuation shelters. When we meet with the mayors of the two towns, we hope to ask their opinions, such as on the actual disaster-stricken areas, the circumstances of the affected people, the hardships these people are enduring, and the problems concerning the response by the national government. In our own way—not that I’m doing it by myself though—the Secretariat is helping and the Committee Members are making efforts to get out and about. By doing so, we are thinking about and finding out about various things.

Although the results of these efforts will appear in two months in the form of the interim report, as I said from the outset, and as I said when this Committee began, this accident has had a direct bearing on people the world over. Therefore, I believe it is important that the people of the world know what this is about, and that they can also make full sense of it. Therefore, we have decided to consult with overseas experts on the investigation into this accident.

There is an extremely high level of interest in the recent accident, not only by people in Japan, but by people overseas too. For this reason, we believe that investigations need to be conducted which can also be trusted internationally. Therefore, the Committee selected several overseas experts to listen to

their opinions and advance the investigation while drawing on those views. A number of these experts have been selected to date, and I am happy to announce them. The three experts are as listed in your handout: Dr. Richard A. Meserve from the United States, Mr. André-Claude Lacoste from France, and Dr. Lars-Erik Holm from Sweden.

Dr. Meserve is currently serving as the Chairman of the IAEA's International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group, or INSAG for short. Up until 2003, he served as the Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC.

Mr. Lacoste is the Chairman of the French Nuclear Safety Authority (ASN). He is also currently serving as the Chairman of the IAEA's Commission on Safety Standards (CSS). Mr. Lacoste was also the Team Leader of the IAEA's Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Review Team which was hosted by Japan in 2007.

Dr. Holm is the Director General of the National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden. He is a specialist in radiation therapy, and his previous positions include the Chairman of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, or ICRP for short.

In addition to these three experts, we are currently proceeding with the selection of experts from neighboring countries. We hope to announce these selections once they are decided. We are also planning to invite the overseas experts to Japan and host an international conference around late February next year. Simultaneous interpreting will be available at the conference, and we plan to make it open to the media. We will make another announcement once the schedule and other details are settled.

This concludes the various decisions and actions to date.