

Press Conference of Chairperson Dr.Hatamura on Tuesday August 23.

Explanation of the investigation status

Date/Time: August 23, 2011, 16:00

Venue: Cabinet Office Building Meeting Rooms 521 and 522

I am glad that we can have this press conference today, but first, I must apologize that we weren't able to have it last Friday like we were supposed to.

40-45 days have passed since the last meeting of the Investigation Committee was held, during which we could not necessarily disclose various kinds of information. Today I would like to talk about what we have done so far and what progress we have achieved. So, I asked you to come here today.

Firstly, let me talk about several things separately. At the second meeting on August 8, we decided on what items to be investigated and set basic rules for investigation such as methods for interviewing and how to handle materials.

The investigation has been conducted mainly by the member of the Secretariat of the Committee with vigor.

It has been one month and a half by now.

We are still in the middle of conducting interviews with various parties, and are not ready to release any accurate facts which have been revealed during the investigation.

However, we believe we need to give you some rough idea about how our investigation is going. So, we asked you to come here today.

First I would like to explain about the interview.

Until today, investigation teams have talked to as many as 126 persons in total. Total interview hours have been approximately as long as 300 hours. All interviews were closed. While the officials of the Secretariat of the Committee have conducted the interviews in most cases, some of the interviews have been conducted by Committee

Members and Technical Advisors, together with Secretariat officials.

With regards to interviewee we will not disclose their names.

I would like to explain about the interview in the manner the interviewee cannot be identified.

Also I would not like to go into the details of what the interviewees have told during the interview, since we have not verified them yet. Today I am only going to touch upon the investigation items.

Among the investigation teams of the Committee, the Social System Investigation Team tries to clarify if the tsunami countermeasures and severe accident countermeasures were appropriate. For the tsunami countermeasures, we talked to tsunami scholars, regulatory authority officials, and the tsunami countermeasure officials of operators in order to learn about past tsunami studies, how tsunami risk recognition was developed, how the tsunami countermeasures were developed, how the tsunami countermeasures were developed at nuclear power plants, and how the tsunami countermeasures were developed by TEPCO.

For the tsunami estimation, the "Tsunami evaluation technique for nuclear power plants" which was compiled by the the Tsunami Evaluation Subcommittee of the Nuclear Civil Engineering Committee at JSCE (Japan Society of Civil Engineers) in 2002 has been used. We are examining this document to know if its evaluation method was appropriate and how its data was compiled.

We are also investigating the reviewing process of the tsunami related part of the Seismic Design of Nuclear Power Reactor Facilities, which was modified by the Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC) in 2006.

As for severe accident countermeasures, we conduct interviews with regulatory authority officials to learn how the concept of the severe accident countermeasures was adopted as well as how its concept and the countermeasures have been developed.

Next, I would like to talk about the Accident Causes Investigation Team.

In order to clarify actual damage conditions, damage control measures and its decision

making processes the investigation team asked TEPCO to submit related materials and let them explain the internal investigation results. After having studied the related materials, we interviewed the manager of the plant, Masao Yoshida and engineers about conditions of its nuclear reactor, as well as the measures taken by them since the earthquake on March 11.

At the same time, the Accident Causes Investigation Team conducts interviews in cooperation with the Social System Investigation Team to learn how the earthquake and tsunami were estimated and what kind of measures were taken before the accident occurred.

Since the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power stations accident has raised huge public concern, let me explain in much more details. Up to now, we talked with 23 power plant engineers for about 140 hours in total.

In particular, we talked with the manager of the nuclear stations, Mr. Yoshida four times in interviews on July 22, 29, August 8 and 9, for a total of about 19 hours. He managed his extremely busy schedule for us. We would like to thank him for giving us his utmost cooperation.

Together with my colleagues I conducted the interview with him twice. I cannot tell you the details of the interview, but I think he has sincerely answered all questions.

I cannot tell you the details about the questions we asked at the interview, but basically, we have let Mr. Yoshida explain events at Unit1-4 of the Nuclear Power Stations in chronological order from his memory.

Of course we have asked him about his evaluation with regards to the reactor damage, and water pouring, vent, as well as hydrogen explosion.

The Damage Expansion Prevention Measures Investigation Team has been talking with government agencies, local governmental units, and TEPCO officials about the subjects, such as the implementation of the safety exercises on the assumption that the earthquake and power plant accidents occurred at the same time the validity of the evacuation instructions, environmental monitoring, utilization of SPEEDI. With regard to SPEEDI, we have been particularly interested in how the SPEEDI information was not disclosed to the general public immediately after the accident. The

team has been also investigating measures for preventing radiation exposure of the residents and nuclear power plant workers with the focus on the discussion regarding exposure dose level measures for contaminated agricultural and livestock products, release of the contaminated water to the ocean on April 4 and the delay of its notice , provision of the sufficient information about the nuclear accident to the foreign countries, and effectiveness of the cooperation with foreign countries and international organizations. So far the Team talked with as many as 89 persons for approximately 135 hours. We further need to conduct interviews with more people.

We keep working hard for this investigation. In order to learn how they addressed the accident and took damage prevention measures, we will talk with more TEPCO head office officials and government officials in interviews. We will learn the present status of the investigation at the 3rd meeting on September 27. Whether we will disclose the meeting or not is still under consideration. If the 3rd meeting will be decided to be held closed, we will consider to disclose the result of the meeting as soon as possible.

After the 2nd meeting on July 8, we visited the Tokai Dai-2 plant on July 15 and the Onagawa plant on August 5, then Haramachi thermal power plant on August 19. We plan to visit the Hamaoka plant on September 9, and the Kashiwazaki-kariya plant on October 14.

So, that is all I can tell you for now. Thank you.