

**Friday 18 March, 2011
6:00 PM, EST**

SITUATION REPORT #2

Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Emergency in Japan

Situation Overview

- The number of people dead and missing in Japan's earthquake and tsunami has now surpassed 16,000, while the authorities continue their efforts to control problems in the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.
- The official figures cite 6,406 dead, more than 10,259 missing, and 2,409 injured. These figures are expected to rise as search and rescue operations continue.
- Some 383,000 people have been evacuated. A few cases of influenza-like illness and gastroenteritis have been reported in evacuation centers. Thousands of rescue workers, including police and personnel from the Self-Defense Forces, continue their search in the affected areas. To date, it is believed that they have tended to 26,000 survivors.
- In the Daiichi plant, fire trucks resumed their efforts to pump water into reactor 3, while engineers fought to reconnect the external electric supply for reactor 2.
- Today, the Government of Japan raised the emergency level on the INES scale from 4 (accident with local consequences) to 5 (accident with wider consequences).

International Response

- The *Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies* (IACRNE), of which the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) and PAHO/WHO are members, is monitoring the emergency.

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- The Government of Japan has formally requested IAEA for assistance in the areas of environmental monitoring and the health impact of the radiation. The Director-General of the IAEA will accompany the mission and is expected to travel to the country in the next few hours.
- The IACRNE, made up of the IAEA, WHO, ICAO (*International Civil Aviation Organization*), and the IMO (*International Maritime Organization*), agreed today that there is no reason to establish travel restrictions with Japan.
- The Government of the United States is collaborating in the cooling effort by providing logistical material and dispatching a team of experts from the NRC.
- PAHO/WHO has been involved in the various coordination activities under way, especially the one spearheaded by the regional office of WHO, WPRO, and the IAEA, through the IACRNE mechanism mentioned above.
- PAHO/WHO has collaborated in the production of an interagency document of frequently asked questions on the situation, available in Spanish and English on the PAHO/WHO website.
- The CRID (Regional Disaster Information Center, Latin America and the Caribbean) website has been updated with references, technical guides, and recommendations on the emergency.
- The PAHO/WHO Emergency Operations Center has been activated since Friday, 11 March, providing technical support and information management.

Reference Map

