**Press briefing at the Prime Minister's Office for members of the foreign press**

13 April 2011

Mr. Yoshimitsu Kaji: Let us start today's briefing. Today we have seven speakers: Mr. Hidehiko Nishiyama, Deputy Director-General of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA); Mr. Shinichi Kawarada, Advisor to Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); Mr. Eiichi Yokota, Senior Technical Officer of the Food Safety Department of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW); and also from MHLW, we have Ms. Etsuko Miyamoto, Policy Planner, Employment Policy Division, Employment Security Bureau; and we have Mr. Masanori Shinano, Counselor Secretariat of the Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC); Mr. Kenji Watanabe, Director of International Liaison and Information, International Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF); and Mr. Takeshi Matsunaga, Assistant Press Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). From the Cabinet Office, we have Mr. Akihiko Suzuki, Deputy Director-General for Economic Assessment and Policy Analysis in the Cabinet Office. My name is Yoshimitsu Kaji, and I am working for the Global Communications Department of the Prime Minister's Office.

So let us start with Mr. Nishiyama's briefing.

Mr. Nishiyama: Thank you. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to briefly summarize today's developments regarding Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Regarding Unit 1, we continued to inject nitrogen into the containment vessel. We injected 3,500$m^2$ of nitrogen as of 17:00 yesterday. The pressure of the vessel rose at the outset, but after some time, the trend became almost flat. There seems to be some leakage, but the data from the monitoring post has been stable.

Regarding Unit 2, the parameters of the reactor are relatively stable. Regarding its spent fuel pool, we introduced 60t of pure water through the fuel pool cooling system today. Regarding stagnant water in the trench and turbine building, we almost finished transferring less than 700$m^2$ of the trench water into the hot well of Unit 2. The surface of the trench water and stagnant water in the turbine building went down 5-8cm within 1.5 days.

Regarding Unit 3, there have been no big changes.

Regarding Unit 4 – this is the unit in which we need to be careful with the spent fuel pool – we injected 195t of pure water into it early this morning. The reason is the temperature of the pool water went up to 90 degrees Centigrade. We measured radiation at 6m above the pool water, and the result was about 84mSv/h. We did nuclide analysis on the pool water of Unit 4, and we found the result which was just given to us that it was not so high. Actually, the data for iodine-131 was 22Bq/cm$^2$.

Our agency, NISA, requested that Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) check the integrity of the reactor building against the continuing aftershocks so that TEPCO can do some work to support the structure of the reactor building. Besides those things, we continued to spray synthetic plastic emulsion over about 500m$^2$ at the west part of the common pool of the spent fuel. And we are placing silt fences in front of the intakes of Units 1-4 and the entrance of the lagoon. Also we are placing six more iron plates at the intake of Unit 2. We are moving irradiated debris with a remotely-controlled system.

That is all for my report today. Thank you.

Mr. Kaji: Thank you very much, Mr. Nishiyama. Mr. Kawarada from MEXT is going to have a briefing.

Mr. Kawarada: Good evening. I am Kawarada. This is sort of an information monitoring environmental radioactivity document that I would like to use, thank you.

So, at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, a radius of 20km outside it is monitored inland as well as in the air and see. I am going to talk about that trend now. As mentioned on page five, initially the spatial dose was high, but gradually this level went down, and as you can see in the graph, recently – especially in the last week – it is about stable or even gradually going a little bit down.

In the meantime the other 47 prefectures were also compared, and the radiation level was also reported by those places. In comparison, there was some impact from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima and some of the communities in adjacent prefectures, but with regards to the other prefectures the figure is almost

normal. That is the general trend.

I have 2 other bits of information prepared for you. One is the readings for radioactive strontium in the land and soil at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, and so this is just one sheet of paper containing information about radioactive strontium. So far, the iodine-131 and cesium-137 were the most important ones, radionuclides of which were actually detected outside. But some people asked about the situation of strontium. It takes time to measure strontium levels exactly, so as shown in this table, from 13-16 March and 19 March were the periods when we got the sample for analysis, and the results of that analysis are shown here. These are the results for strontium 89 and 90. The major figure shown is from land soil detection.

Strontium 89 was 260 Bq/kg and strontium 90 was 32 Bq/kg. So those are the highest values. So you can see that the figures 31, 32, 33, and then you can see on the back page of this map how they were detected. This is the spatial radioactivity dose, and you can see from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant this is especially northwest direction from the plant due to the wind. I think those are highest, due to the wind, so we analyzed the data that showed the highest value and level and analyzed.

Mr. Kaji: Thank you very much, Mr. Kawarada. From MHLW, Mr. Eiichi Yokota is going to talk to you.

Mr. Yokota: So I would like to talk about the report that MHLW received yesterday, being the result of the tests of foodstuffs. Yesterday, we had a total of 55 sample results from 8 municipalities, so please refer to the results of the tests, and that is to the right and those that are shaded by gray had exceeded the limits. Two samples, the fourth item from the top, Ibaraki spinach, and sand lance from Ibaraki, which is also shaded in gray. That is number 21. Spinach produced in Ibaraki is already restricted of its shipping, and the fishing of sand lances is not taking place, which means these two items are not placed on the market. Now, moving on to the different piece of paper that I have prepared, these have compiled the results of all the tests that have been conducted to this date of all the food samples. That is all.

Mr. Kaji: So, next, Ms. Etsuko Miyamoto is going to talk about employment.

Ms. Miyamoto: Thank you. So I would like to talk about the Japan is One Work Project.

And I am sorry this was compiled on 5 April, so there was a delay in briefing to all of you about this project. I am sorry. Now, the disaster victims need to have support of their employment and protection of their livelihood, so in each ministry, there is a member that was selected to participate in the conference of promotion of employment support and job creation for disaster victims, which was chaired by Yoko Komiyama and we had three rounds of meetings. On the 5 April, we had the third round of the meetings, in which the Japan as One Work Project, the phase 1 countermeasures had been compiled. So, the vision of existing laws or supplementary budget would not be needed for these countermeasures, so this is in a sense a stopgap measure, and by revising the legislation, we are able to go on to phase 2 of this project. The main points of the conclusion are compiled and the basic guidelines to deal with the project. The basic guidelines have two features: For reconstruction projects there should be employment opportunities offered to the disaster victims, and secondly fully consider the desire and requirements of the disaster victims so that these people can seek employment in areas outside the affected areas so that employment and also the livelihood of disaster victims are to be supported in this Japan is One Work Project. On the second page, we have emergency countermeasures, totaling three. First of all, reconstruction projects to steadily create employment opportunities. Secondly, to fully match the desire of the disaster victims and the type of jobs that are offered for employment, and thirdly, to secure full employment opportunities for disaster victims. Please refer to the specifics of these measures in the following pages. We need to, of course, effectively and efficiently communicate to the disaster victims what we are trying to implement, so we need to implement effective public relations activities. That's all.

Mr. Shinano: Thank you very much. From the Nuclear Safety Commission, I would like to give you a presentation on the daily report of the environmental monitoring results published for the period from 10 April to 12 April at 10:00. Generally speaking, no data were measured or monitored which would have an adverse effect upon health. Second, in the dust sampling in the air around Fukushima, the iodine level reduced and the cesium level increased over the previous day, but it's still under the concentration limit, lower than the concentration limit. The fourth point is the environment-related information, especially seawater information. Iodine declined, cesium increased. The dust in the water - iodine, cesium – was below the detection limit. The fifth item, environment radioactive activity level surveyed by prefecture – in the tap water, iodine was above the previous day, but cesium was lower than the previous day. At any rate,

they are lower than the drinking limit, so they bring no adverse effects upon health. Thank you very much.

Mr. Kaji: So next, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Takeshi Matsunaga.

Mr. Matsunaga: Thank you, Mr. Kaji. Good evening. I would like to make three announcements this evening. First, about provision of relief supplies from France. Last Sunday, relief supplies arrived from France, in response to the earthquake. They consist of nuclear-related supplies, such as radiation monitoring devices and they are the second dispatch of this sort of equipment provided from France. So far, the government of France has provided nuclear-related supplies and also immediately after the earthquake, the government dispatched a rescue team. The government of Japan deeply appreciates the cooperation of the government of France to date.

Second, I would like to mention about the monetary donation from Bosnia-Herzegovina. On 24 March, the Ministerial Council of Bosnia and Herzegovina decided to donate one day's portion of the member's salary and in addition many of the local governments of Bosnia-Herzegovina have provided donations to the embassy of Japan in the country. The government of Japan deeply appreciates the cooperation of the government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Lastly, I'd like to mention about the Korea-Japan meeting between their nuclear-related experts. Yesterday and today, there were meetings between nuclear-related experts from the two countries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. From the Japanese side, explanation was given with respect to the measures and actions taken in response to the earthquake, as well as concerning the accident in the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. The Japanese side also explained about the monitoring and measurement of radiation and their assessment, and both sides exchanged views and questions. In addition, explanation was provided from the Japanese side with respect to food safety and regulations and monitoring concerned with the distribution and circulation of food. The Japanese side also explained about the provision of information from the government of Japan to the diplomatic corps in Japan. Also, the Japanese side explained about yesterday's updating of the rating of the INES to Level 7. From the Korean side, appreciation was expressed with respect to the provision of information throughout the meeting as well as the exchange of opinions in the meeting. They appreciated the meeting particularly with respect to the contribution of the meeting for the facilitation of

understanding on the side of the Korean government and people of the Republic of Korea. Both sides confirmed that they will continue the close exchange of views and communication with respect to the safety of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant as well as the safety of food. That's all from me. Thank you.

Mr. Yoshimitsu Kaji: Thank you very much Mr. Matsunaga. So, the last speech from us is going to be from Mr. Akihiko Suzuki from the Cabinet Office.

Mr. Suzuki: I'm Suzuki from the Cabinet Office.

Today we reported the April monthly economic report to the economic-related ministers' meeting. Please see the two-page paper titled "Monthly Economic Report Executive Summary – April, 2011." The April assessment of the current state of the Japanese economy is that although the Japanese economy was picking up, it shows weakness recently due to the influence of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Also, difficult situations remain, such as the high unemployment rate. Compared to the March assessment, the April assessment has been revised downward for the first time in six months. As for the private sector, three factors were downgraded, revised downward. Those were exports, industrial production, and private consumption. Concretely speaking, as for exports, although exports were showing movements of picking up, a decline has been caused by the earthquake disaster. As for industrial production, industrial production was picking up, but the earthquake disaster is making production activities stagnant recently. As for private consumption, although private consumption was showing movements of picking up, some weaknesses have been seen recently due to the influence of the earthquake disaster. As for short-term prospects, weakness will continue for a while, due to the influence of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Afterwards, however, as production activities recover, the economy is expected to resume picking up, reflecting improvement in overseas economies and the effects of various policy measures. There are downside risks that could stem from the effects of constraints of the electric power supply, a slow recovery of the supply chain, and the influence of rising oil prices.

As for industrial production, industrial production was picking up but the earthquake disaster has caused production activities to stagnate recently. As for private consumption, although private consumption was showing improvement or picking up, some weaknesses have been seen recently due to the influence of the earthquake disaster.

As for short-term prospects, weaknesses will continue for a while, due to the influence of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Afterwards, however, as production activities will be recovering, the economy is expected to resume picking up, reflecting improvements in overseas economies and the effects of various policy measures.

There are downside risks that stem from constraints on the electric power supply, the slow recovery of the supply chain, and the influence of rising oil prices. It should also be noted that there is still a risk of the influence of deflation on the economy and concern regarding the possibility of deterioration of the employment situation. That is a summary of the April economic report. Thank you.

Mr. Kaji: Thank you very much Mr. Suzuki. Now we would like to open the floor to have questions from your end. The gentleman with the black shirt.

QUESTION (Mr. Azhari, PanOrient News): Thank you. My first question is to Mr. Nishiyama. I heard many questions from the media in relation to yesterday, after you raised the level of danger to 7. They feel as if something happened suddenly yesterday. But basically it is not like this it seems, as you explained. What is your explanation in terms of what is going on generally in the nuclear power station in Fukushima, now that you have raised it to 7? Thank you.

Mr. Nishiyama: First of all, regarding the level, the name of the level is International Nuclear Event Scale (INES). We have increased the level from 5 to 7 now that we have been able to gather all the data regarding what has been happening up to now. It does not mean whatsoever that something happened yesterday or something dangerous occurred yesterday: That is not the case at all.

The situation we have is as follows: right now we are cooling the fuel by continually injecting water, and in that process, as a side effect, we are seeing the overflow of water in the turbine building and elsewhere. We are now at a stage of considering how we can successfully dispose of the water and create a sustainable cooling system. I do not consider that we are faced with any particularly large impediment at the present moment. As I mentioned earlier, however, I presume that we will be requiring some more time until we can get the water out of the way and create a sustainable cooling system.

Mr. Kaji: Thank you very much, Mr. Nishiyama. Next question, please.

QUESTION (Mr. Bradshaw, New York Times): My question is also to Mr. Nishiyama, please. We have been told that you are asking TEPCO to take more steps to be ready for the possibility of strong aftershocks or tsunamis. Can you provide any details, please? In particular, with respect to tsunamis, we have been told that the tsunami wall they have could withstand, before the 11 March earthquake, a 5m tsunami. But it has been damaged since. Can it now only withstand a 2m tsunami, a 3m tsunami, and what is to be done about that in the event of a further shock? Thank you.

Mr. Nishiyama: First of all, we would like to have TEPCO take measures so that they will be able to withstand again even a tsunami of the magnitude that we experienced on 11 March. In order to be able to do so, TEPCO is now considering the following measures: what is important is to secure the power source and the cooling function. To secure the power source, regarding the several lines of outside power source that they have we are now considering connecting them mutually so that even if one of those lines cannot be used the others can be used. The other measure that is now being considered is to always have a power supply vehicle or a diesel generator at a high location so that they will not be swamped in water even if a large tsunami were to come again; in other words, to have something that would generate power at a high location.

As a final measure, in the case that we are not able to protect the power source even if the foregoing measures have been taken, a fire engine pump will also be placed at some high location so that water can be supplied to the reactor even in a case where the power supply cannot be protected with the foregoing measures.

Regarding the height of the tsunami, even now we can have the nuclear power plant not be covered by water at all up to a tsunami of about 5.6m. But through the measures which I mentioned a moment ago, even if we experience a tsunami of 15m we will be able to protect the power source and the cooling function.

Mr. Kaji: Thank you very much. Next question please.

QUESTION (Ms. Meyer, Der Spiegel): Also a question for Mr. Nishiyama. Your agency said yesterday that the amount of radioactive materials that was released was about 10% of the Chernobyl accident, and then at the same time, TEPCO has said that the amount

of radioactive material that could be discharged could be even more than Chernobyl, and that caused some confusion. I wonder if you could clear that up.

Mr. Nishiyama: What TEPCO has said probably represents a very consertive statement on their part considering that currently TEPCO is placed in a position where it would hesitate to say anything optimistic.

Accordingly, when we look at the current situation objectively, if various measures are taken as we go forward, I believe TEPCO will also come to share the view that NISA has.

Mr. Kaji: Thank you very much. Next question please? Okay, go ahead.

QUESTION (Ms. Meyer, Der Spiegel): Also to Mr. Nishiyama – you talked a bit about the current measures that you are taking in accordance with TEPCO. I wondered if you could talk a little bit about the medium- and long-term efforts you will be trying to make?

Mr. Nishiyama: The difficulty we face now is the fact that on one hand we need to inject water in order to cool the fuel, but on the other hand that water seems to be flowing out in the form of stagnant water and the disposal is becoming difficult.

Therefore, what is important going forward is to be able to recycle in some form or another the water that is being injected so that we will not need to always inject new additional water. And also, to introduce a cooling function, which will probably be cooling by air or by using seawater.

In addition to that, while we believe that if we continue with the measures that we are now taking there will not be further radioactive material being discharged but we need to introduce some kind of shielding function by taking some measure that will prevent the radioactive material that has already been discharged and is accumulated in the premise from scattering around.

Mr. Kaji: Thank you very much. We will take one last question, if any? Okay, go ahead.

QUESTION (Mr. Fatiguso, ANSA): Mr. Nishiyama, I would like to know, what is the

plan about Units 5 and 6 in the medium- to long-term? Thank you.

Mr. Nishiyama: For Units 5 and 6, since one power source survived and we were able to secure the cooling function, there has not been any damage either to the fuel or to the spent fuel.

Normally, after inspecting the damage to the other areas that have been incurred from the earthquake and tsunami have been undertaken, we normally would be going into the process of starting operation of the unit again. This time however, since the incident has caused great concern to the residents in the surrounding area, we would have to decide on next steps after listening carefully to the views of the residents in the surrounding areas.

Mr. Kaji: Okay? Thank you for your participation. I think we would like to close today's briefing. Thank you very much.