

Government Makes Unusual Request to Foreign Media to Issue Accurate Information

On July 26, the Japanese government issued a directive to foreign governments through Japanese diplomatic missions abroad to issue accurate information, given its perception that “the inappropriate reporting by some foreign media has invited misunderstanding” about the influence of the July 16 Niigata-Chuetsu Offshore Earthquake on the Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Station.

Regarding the influence of the earthquake on the NPS, the government has already enlisted the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) to give information to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and major nuclear-power countries. In addition, from now on, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will instruct diplomatic missions abroad to make explanations to the governments of major countries and those countries where inappropriate information has been distributed.

As for efforts already in place, NISA previously had convened around 60 members of the domestic and foreign press on July 18 at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan (FCCJ) in Tokyo, to hold an explanatory meeting. On July 27, the Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) also held a similar meeting at the Club, as did NISA once again.

On July 25, NISA also made an explanation of the events surrounding the earthquake and the aftermath to various EU countries' embassy staff in Tokyo at the request of Portugal, currently the holder of the European Union (EU) presidency. The EU is composed of 27 countries, and staff from 18 of the EU embassies in Tokyo attended the meeting.

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