

Marking 10 Years Since the Great East Japan Earthquake

March 11, 2021

The Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan
Chairman Kazuhiro Ikebe

March 11, 2021 marks 10 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake.

I, as a person involved in the nuclear power business, am very regretful that we continue to inconvenience, concern, and burden many people as a result of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident.

In March of last year, the evacuation order was gradually lifted for parts of Futaba-machi, Okumamachi, and Tomioka-machi in Fukushima Prefecture. The whole of the JR Joban line that runs through the Hamadori area also reopened for service. Of the municipalities in the remaining difficult-to-return zones, six villages and towns in the specified reconstruction and recovery zones are expected to be habitable again by 2023. In Fukushima recovery, efforts to help evacuees return home need to be expanded according to the Act on Special Measures for the Reconstruction and Revitalization of Fukushima, and efforts to reconstruct and revitalize Fukushima such as the rebuilding of businesses and livelihoods need to be accelerated.

Meanwhile, the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station Decommissioning Project is progressing safely and steadily under TEPCO Holdings, and necessary measures are being implemented according to the Mid-and-Long Term Roadmap. I am aware that extremely difficult work without precedent anywhere in the world including fuel debris retrieval lies ahead and I ask that TEPCO Holdings challenge themselves in implementing decommissioning steadily, putting safety above all.

The industry as a whole will continue to fully support the initiatives of TEPCO Holdings such as decommissioning with safety above all, improving living conditions in the area, building an industrial infrastructure, and creating job opportunities.

Under a strong commitment to never let an accident like this occur again, we nuclear operators have been each responding appropriately to the new regulatory requirements and strengthening voluntary safety improvement initiatives at nuclear power plants in collaboration with external organizations such as the Japan Nuclear Safety Institute (JANSI), Nuclear Risk Research Center at the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (NRRC), and the Atomic Energy Association (ATENA) to secure higher levels of safety.

We will continue these initiatives, and actively share information to increase transparency in plant operations and recover the trust of the people of the siting regions and society.

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