Japan’s 3.11 Earthquake, Tsunami, Atomic Meltdown

This guide is divided into two parts.

introduces work published by The Asia-Pacific Journal.

introduces major English and Japanese print and online sources on 3.11.

I. A Guide to Asia-Pacific Journal Resources

This is a guide to the approximately one hundred articles published by The Asia-Pacific Journal on the 3.11 earthquake, tsunami, atomic meltdown and their aftermath including the debate over Japan’s energy policy, the future of nuclear power, the devastation of the Northeast, plans for resettlement and reconstruction, and the resurgence of social movements. Articles are arranged within the following categories with the most recent ones first:

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- Pinar Temocin and Noriyuki Kawano, Citizen Advocacy: The Achievements of New Zealand’s Peace Activism
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- Laray Polk, Bikini Atoll Is Not a Beer: Pacific Islanders Speak Out
- Okuaki Satoru, How Japanese scientists confronted the U.S. and Japanese governments to reveal the effects of Bikini H-bomb tests
- Gwyn McClelland, Echoes of the Past on the Atomic Field: Water please!
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- Richard Falk, If Obama Visits Hiroshima
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• Andrew DeWit, Japan’s Energy Policy at a Crossroads: A Renewable Energy Future?

• Antony Froggatt and Joy Tuffield, Chinese Nuclear Power Development at Home and Abroad

• Kimura Satoru, Japanese Nuclear Power Generation Comes to a Vietnamese Village

• Andrew DeWit, Japan’s Remarkable Renewable Energy Drive—After Fukushima


• Jeff Kingston, Japan’s Nuclear Village

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• Vivian Blaxell, Sorrow, History and Catastrophe in Japan After the 3.11 Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Meltdown: A Personal Encounter

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• Yuki Tanaka and Peter Kuznick, Japan, the Atomic Bomb, and the “Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Power”

• Gavan McCormack, Hubris Punished: Japan as Nuclear State

• Yuki Tanaka, The Atomic Bomb and “Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy”

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• Lawrence W. Wittner, How Japan Learned About "Nuclear Safety": The Politics of Denial

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5. Government, Corporate and International Responses to Earthquake, Tsunami and Meltdown
• Muto Ruiko, This Will Still Be True Tomorrow: "Fukushima Ain't Got the Time for Olympic Games": Two Texts on Nuclear Disaster and Pandemic

• Sonja Petrovic, Tracing Individual Perceptions of Media Credibility in Post-3.11 Japan

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• Shaun Burnie, Radiation Disinformation and Human Rights Violations at the Heart of Fukushima and the Olympic Games

• David T. Johnson, Hiroshi Fukurai and Mari Hirayama, Reflections on the TEPCO Trial: Prosecution and Acquittal after Japan’s Nuclear Meltdown

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• Aoki Hidekazu and Kawamiya Nobuo, End Game for Japan's Construction State - The Linear (Maglev) Shinakansen and Abenomics

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• Yasuhiro Abe, Safecast or the Production of Collective Intelligence on Radiation Risks after 3.11

• Shineha Ryuma and Tanaka Mikihito, Mind the Gap: 3.11 and the Information Vulnerable

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• Andrew DeWit, Abenomics Needs a Reboot Rather than Nuclear Restarts

• Winifred Bird, Post-Tsunami Japan’s Push To Rebuild Coast in Concrete

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• Kerstin Lukner and Alexandra Sakaki, Lessons from Fukushima: An Assessment of the Investigations of the Nuclear Disaster

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• Iwata Wataru, Nadine Ribault and Thierry Ribault, Thyroid Cancer in Fukushima: Science Subverted in the Service of the State

• Masuda Yoshinobu, From "Black Rain" to "Fukushima": The Urgency of Internal Exposure Studies

• Nadine Ribault and Thierry Ribault, The "Bright Future" of Japan's Nuclear Industry

• Brigitte Steger, "We were all in this together
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- Hirose Takashi, *Japan’s Earthquake-Tsunami-Nuclear Disaster Syndrome: An Unprecedented Form of Catastrophe*

- Andrew DeWit, *Fallout From the Fukushima Shock: Japan’s Emerging Energy Policy*

- Aileen Mioko Smith and Mark Selden, *Bringing the Plight of Fukushima Children to the UN, Washington and the World*

- Tomomi Yamaguchi, *The Kaminoseki Nuclear Power Plant: Community Conflicts and the Future of Japan’s Rural Periphery*


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- Kodama Tatsuhiko, *Radiation Effects on Health: Protect the Children of Fukushima*

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- David McNeill, *A Young Man Sacrificing his future to shut down Fukushima*


- Andrew DeWit and Sven Saaler, *Political and Policy Repercussions of Japan’s Nuclear and Natural Disasters in Germany*

- Onuki Satoko, *Former Fukushima Governor Sato Eisaku Blasts METI -TEPCO Alliance: “Government must accept responsibility for defrauding the people”*


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- David McNeill, *Japan’s government faces looming crisis over ‘whack-a-mole’ nuclear policies*

- APJ Feature, *Save the Children: Radiation Exposure of Fukushima Students*

- APJ Feature, *TEPCO, Credibility, and the Japanese Crisis*

6. Citizen, NGO and International Responses to Earthquake Tsunami and Meltdown

- Muto Ruiko, *This Will Still Be True Tomorrow: "Fukushima Ain't Got the Time for Olympic Games": Two Texts on Nuclear Disaster and Pandemic*

- Sonja Petrovic, *Tracing Individual Perceptions of Media Credibility in Post-3.11 Japan*

- Paul Jobin, *The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster and Civil Actions as a Social Movement*
• Akihiro Ogawa, *As If Nothing Had Occurred: Anti-Tokyo Olympics Protests and Concern Over Radiation Exposure*

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• Koide Hiroaki and Norma Field, *The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster and the Tokyo Olympics*

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• Noriko Manabe, *“It’s Our Turn to Be Heard”: The Life and Legacy of Rapper-Activist ECD (1960-2018)*

• Arkadiusz Podniesiński and David McNeill, *Fukushima: A Second Chernobyl?*

• Katsuya Hirano, *“We need to recognize this hopeless sight.... To recognize that this horrible crime is what our country is doing to us”: Interview with Mutō Ruiko*

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• Shuge Wei, *Recovery from "Betrayal": Local Anti-Nuclear Movements and Party Politics in Taiwan*

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• Yasuhito Abe, *Safecast or the Production of Collective Intelligence on Radiation Risks after 3.11*

• Kyle Cleveland, *Mobilizing Nuclear Bias: The Fukushima Nuclear Crisis and the Politics of Uncertainty*

• Christopher S. Thompson, *Are You Coming to the Matsuri?: Tsunami Recovery and Folk Performance Culture on Iwate’s Rikuchū Coast*

• Andrew DeWit, *Spinning the Tokyo Metro Election <*

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• Shoji Masahiko introduced & translated by Tom Gill, *The Rage of Exile: In the Wake of Fukushima*

• Antoni Slodkowski and Mari Saito, *Hard Times in Fukushima*

• David McNeill and Justin McCurry, *Japan’s Cut-Price Nuclear Cleanup*

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- Iwata Wataru interviewed by Nadine and Thierry Ribault, *Fukushima: “Everything has to be done again for us to stay in the contaminated areas”*

- Koide Hiroaki, *Japan’s Nightmare Fight Against Radiation in the Wake of the 3.11 Meltdown*

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- Miguel Quintana, *Radiation Decontamination in Fukushima: a critical perspective from the ground*

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• Dawn Grimes-MacLellan, Students in the field at the site of the Great East Japan Earthquake

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• Hirose Takashi, Japan’s Earthquake-Tsunami-Nuclear Disaster Syndrome: An Unprecedented Form of Catastrophe

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• Winifred A. Bird and Elizabeth Grossman, Chemical Contamination, Cleanup and...
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• Say-Peace Project and Norimatsu Satoko, Protecting Children Against Radiation: Japanese Citizens Take Radiation Protection into Their Own Hands

• David McNeill, Communities Struggle to Rebuild Shattered Lives on Japan’s Coast

• Matthew Penney, The Voices of Ten Million: Anti-Nuclear Petition Movement Launched in Japan

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• David McNeill, Japan’s government faces looming crisis over ‘whack-a-mole’ nuclear policies

7. Literary, Artistic and Press Responses to Earthquake Tsunami and Meltdown

• Sonja Petrovic, Tracing Individual Perceptions of Media Credibility in Post-3.11 Japan

• Ryan Holmberg et al, Kanto Loam Stories: Looking for 3.11 in Tokyo Today

• Barbara Geihorn, A Multifaceted Fukushima-Trauma and Memory in Ōnobu Pelican’s Kiruannya and U-ko

• Margherita Long, Japan’s 3.11 Nuclear Disaster and the State of Exception: Notes on Kamanaka’s Interview and Two Recent Films

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• William Johnston, The Making of "A Body in Fukushima": A Journey Through an Ongoing Disaster

• Allison Holland, Natural Disaster, Trauma and Activism in the art of Takamine Tadasu
• Carolyn Stevens, Images and Suffering, Resilience and Compassion

• Helen Kilpatrick, The Recognition of Nuclear Trauma in Sagashite Imasu.

• Tamaki Tokia, The Post 3/11 Quest for True Kizuna

• Andrew Brown, Remembering Hiroshima and the Lucky Dragon in Chim Pom's Level 7 feat. "Myth of Tomorrow"

• Peter Eckersall, Performance, Mourning and the Long View of Nuclear Space

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• Christopher S. Thompson, Are You Coming to the Matsuri?: Tsunami Recovery and Folk Performance Culture on Iwate’s Rikuchû Coast

• David McNeill, Al-Jazeera America on the Fukushima Triple Disaster, Three Years On

• Noriko Manabe, Music in Japanese Antinuclear Demonstrations: The Evolution of a Contentious Performance Model

• Asato Ikeda, Ikeda Manabu, the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, and Disaster/Nuclear Art in Japan

• Asato Ikeda, On Uranium Art: Artist Ken + Julia Yonetani in Conversation with Asato Ikeda

• David McNeill, Truth to Power: Japanese Media, International Media and 3.11 Reportage

• Rebecca Jennison, “Revelations from the Sea”: An Artist’s Response to the Disasters of March 11th, 2011

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• Noriko Manabe, The No Nukes 2012 Concert and the Role of Musicians in the Anti-Nuclear Movement

• Mainichi Shimbun, The Black Box of Japan’s Nuclear Power

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• Paul Jobin, BBC and ZDF documentaries on Fukushima

• Maeda Arata and Satoko Oka Norimatsu, Amid Invisible Terror: The Righteous Anger of A Fukushima Farmer Poet

• Susan J. Napier, The Anime Director, the Fantasy Girl and the Very Real Tsunami

• Matthew Penney, Nuclear Nationalism and Fukushima

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• Murakami Haruki, Speaking as an Unrealistic Dreamer

• Roger Pulvers, Murakami, the No-Nuclear Principles, Nuclear Power and the Bomb

• Wagō Ryōichi and Jeffery Angles, Pebbles of Poetry: The Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami

• Philip J. Cunningham, Japan Quake Shakes TV: The Media Response to Catastrophe

• Matthew Penney, Songs for Fukushima

• Norimatsu Satoko, Worldwide Responses to the 20 Millisievert Controversy

• Amory Lovins, Learning From Japan's Nuclear Disaster

1. Blogs and Twitter

The Wall Street Journal’s blog “Japan Realtime” offers eclectic commentary on contemporary Japan. The focus is on economic issues but the blog has presented solid original reportage on Fukushima since March.

http://blogs.wsj.com/japanrealtime/

A series of original translations on issues relating to the Tsunami and nuclear crisis from a McGill University translation seminar organized by Prof. Adrienne Hurley.

https://east306.wordpress.com/

The blog Global Voices features the work of volunteer translators who strive to spread awareness of local perspectives that often end up lost in mainstream reportage. Highlights of the Fukushima coverage include “A Nuclear Gypsy’s Tale”


http://globalvoicesonline.org/-/world/east-asia/japan/

A collection of links and commentary in French

http://fukushima.over-blog.fr/

Twitter stream for Fukushima articles and info in English

http://twitter.com/#!/fukushimaeng

II. Resources on the 3.11 Earthquake Tsunami and Nuclear Meltdown: Societal and Government Responses. English and Japanese sources.

• This is a project in progress. Please send suggestions for important additions, including a brief description and URL, to Matthew Penney at penneym@hotmail.com
On the Peace Philosophy Centre blog, Asia-Pacific Journal Coordinator Satoko Norimatsu presents a range of hard-hitting criticisms of the Japanese government and TEPCO responses to the Fukushima crisis including original translations of sources not otherwise available in English and extensive Japanese and English language coverage of official, NGO and blog sources.

http://peacephilosophy.blogspot.com/

Ten Thousand Things is a blog Supporting Positive Peace in Japan, the Asia-Pacific and Everywhere which includes extensive coverage of peace and environmental movements.

http://tenthousandthingsfromkyoto.blogspot.com/

English and Japanese blog specializing in 3.11 economic and financial issues.

http://ex-skf.blogspot.com/
http://ex-skf-jp.blogspot.com/

2. NGOs and Informational Websites

Green Action Kyoto, an NGO which has campaigned against nuclear power since the early 1990s, presents a comprehensive and critical blog of Fukushima stories in English drawing on government, media and NGO sources.

http://fukushima.greenaction-japan.org/

True to its mandate, Greenpeace has presented some of the most critical coverage of the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Greenpeace, in February 2012, published a major critical overview of the 3.11 disaster and crisis. The study examines the nuclear meltdown, assesses the dangers of radiation, the fundamental failure of the Japanese nuclear system, and the issues of compensation to victims.


The Citizens’ Nuclear Information Centre is a longstanding organization that aims to provide information about nuclear energy and its risks to the Japanese public. Their bi-monthly newsletter is a valuable source of information on nuclear issues.

http://www.cnic.jp/english/

They also offer a blog containing video resources and links to important anti-nuclear publications

http://cnic-movie.blogspot.com/

The website of Japan’s Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies, an NGO devoted to phasing out atomic energy. English and Japanese sites.

http://www.isep.or.jp/
http://www.isep.or.jp/en

The Japanese website of leading nuclear protest organizer “Shiroto no Ran”.

http://www.isep.or.jp/jp
http://trio4.nobody.jp/keita/

A collection of hundreds of anti-nuclear posters.

http://nonukeart.org/

National Network to Protect Children from Radiation (in Japanese)

http://kodomozenkokunet.sblo.jp/

EShift, a Japanese network dedicated to phasing out atomic energy in favor of natural renewables.

http://e-shift.org/

Fukushima coverage by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.


Arnie Gunderson’s Fairewinds Associates provides critical analysis of global nuclear issues by scientist. It has closely followed the Fukushima situation.

http://www.fairewinds.org/transitions

Environmental Network News covers a range of environmental issues

http://www.enn.com/

The Atomic Age: From Hiroshima to the Present is a resource maintained at the University of Chicago

http://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/atomicage/


Japan Today:

http://www.japantoday.com/

A general English language news site, but they are often fastest in providing Kyodo’s news reports.

Japanese public broadcaster NHK’s most recent updates on Fukushima and Nuclear Power (in Japanese).

Yomiuri Shimbun’s Japanese language Fukushima section.
http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/feature/TO000303/

Nikkei’s Japanese language “Nuclear Crisis” section.
http://www.nikkei.com/news/special/top/q=9694E3E0E2E1E0E2E3E5E6E2EA;p=9694E3E0E2E1E0E2E3E5E6E2E1;o=9694E3E0E2E1E0E2E3E5E6E2E0

Asahi’s Japanese nuclear news page.
http://www.asahi.com/special/10005/index_npp.html

Mainichi Japanese nuclear section.
http://mainichi.jp/select/weathernews/20110311/nuclear/

4. Government and TEPCO Sources

The website of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency. Japanese and English
http://www.jaea.go.jp/english/
http://www.jaea.go.jp/

Japanese Cabinet’s “Countermeasures for the Great East Japan Earthquake” and other official statements on the disaster and response (English language)
http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/incident/index.html

TEPCO official updates in English by the power company responsible for the Fukushima plants. (Japanese, Chinese and Korean texts available)
http://www.tepco.co.jp/en/index-e.html
http://www.tepco.co.jp/index-j.html

TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi press releases (in Japanese)

MEXT radiation monitoring English and Japanese sites
http://www.mext.go.jp/

Radiation data from across Japan provided by Japan’s Ministry of Science (in Japanese).
http://atmc.jp/

The US Department of Energy’s Fukushima site

The French IRSN’s English-language documents on Fukushima
5. Japanese Blogs and Websites

Blogger “Zama Miyagare” aggregates top news from the 35 most widely read blogs on the nuclear power issue
http://blog.livedoor.jp/amenohimoharenohimo/

Koide Hiroaki’s “Hikoushiki Matome” is the blog of a Kyoto University nuclear researcher who aims to provide alternative information on the Fukushima crisis
http://hiroakikoide.wordpress.com/about/

The magazine Diamond, and particularly its political writer Uesugi Takashi, have presented some of the most detailed critiques of the Japanese government’s response to Fukushima
http://diamond.jp/category/s-uesugi

Iwakami Yasumi is a freelance journalist whose web journal closely follows issues relating to Fukushima radiation
http://iwakamiyasumi.com/

Tanaka Ryusaku is an independent investigative journalist whose blog contains varied information about Fukushima and anti-nuclear protests
http://tanakaryusaku.jp/

“Save Child” was a website that focused on issues relating to radiation and public health, particularly the exposure of Fukushima children

Our Planet TV is an alternative media site that has paid strong attention to the issue of radiation exposure of Fukushima children
http://www.ourplanet-tv.org/?q=taxonomy/term/83

Video News is an alternative, advertising free news source. The site features interviews about Fukushima with scientists and activists who aim to provide alternatives to mainstream media and government perspectives
http://www.videonews.com/

Gendai Business, one of Japan’s leading business magazines, has distinguished itself with hard-hitting Fukushima coverage
http://gendai.ismedia.jp/

The website of LDP Diet member Kohno Taro who has consistently criticised his own party’s line on energy policy
http://www.taro.org/

The Jiyu Hodo Kyokai (Free Broadcast Group)
runs an alternative news site called simply The News
http://the-news.jp/

Blogger Kinoshita Kouta aims to draw attention to the dangers of radiation
http://blog.goo.ne.jp/nagaikenji20070927

Onuma Yasushi blogs in the form of a “Personal Newspaper”. He has amassed hundreds of links to pieces relating to Fukushima and contamination
http://onuma.cocolog-nifty.com/blog1/

The “Genpatsu” blog aims to translate foreign news stories into Japanese
http://genpatsu.wordpress.com/

The “Fukushima Network for Saving Children from Radiation” is organizing protests and providing alternative information for Fukushima parents
http://kodomofukushima.net/

“Chu-Oni” (Middle Ogre) and “Ou-Oni” (Big Ogre) break down everything from official radiation statistics to anti-nuclear public opinion
http://onihutari.blog60.fc2.com/blog-entry-67.html