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:

1. Earthquake and Tsunami Damage: Consequences for Land, Life, Economy

   - Muto Ruiko, This Will Still Be True Tomorrow: "Fukushima Ain't Got the Time for Olympic Games": Two Texts on Nuclear Disaster and Pandemic
   - 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
   - Peter Wynn Kirby, Slow burn: Dirt, Radiation, and Power in Fukushima
   - Peter Matanle, Joel Littler and Oliver Slay, Imagining Disasters in the Era of Climate Change: Is Japan’s Seawall a New Maginot Line?
   - Ryan Holmberg et al, Kanto Loam Stories:Looking for 3.11 in Tokyo Today
   - Koide Hiroaki and Norma Field, The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster and the Tokyo Olympics
   - Katsuya Hirano, Yoshihiro Amaya, and Yoh Kawano, "Save the Town": Insolvable Dilemmas of Fukushima's "Return Policy"
   - Katsuya Hirano, Yoshihiro Amaya, and Yoh Kawano, Reconstruction Disaster: The human implications of Japan’s forced return policy in
Fukushima

- Richard Reitan, *Ecology and Japanese History: Reactionary Environmentalism’s Troubled Relationship with the Past*
- Arai Takako, *Disaster Poetry from Ōfunato*
- Aihara Hiroko and Eiichiro Ochiai, *Follow Up on Thyroid Cancer! Patient Group Voices Opposition to Scaling Down the Fukushima Prefectural Health Survey*
- Gavan McCormack, *Japan: Prime Minister Abe Shinzo’s Agenda*
- Arkadiusz Podniesiński and David McNeill, *Fukushima: A Second Chernobyl?*
- Mark R. Mullins, *Neonationalism, Religion, and Patriotic Education in Post-disaster Japan*
- David McNeill, *False Dawn: The Decline of Watchdog Journalism in Japan*
- Vincenzo Capodici, Shaun Burnie and Richard Minear, *Reassessing the 3.11 Disaster and the Future of Nuclear Power in Japan: An Interview with Former Prime Minister Kan Naoto*
- 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
- Robert Stolz, *Nuclear Disasters: A Much Greater Event Has Already Taken Place*
- Andrew DeWit, *Japan’s "National Resilience" and the Legacy of 3-11*
- David McNeill and Androniki Christodoulou, *Inside Fukushima's Potemkin Village*
- Andrew De Wit, *Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience as Structural Reform in Abenomics*
- David McNeill, *Japanese Government Squelching Efforts to Measure Fukushima Meltdown*
- Yasuhito Abe, *Safecast or the Production of Collective Intelligence on Radiation Risks after 3.11*
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- Philip C. Brown, *Call it A ‘Wash’? Historical Perspectives on Conundrums of Technological Modernization, Flood Amelioration and Disasters in Modern Japan*
- David McNeill and Paul Jobin, *Japan’s 3.11 Triple Disaster: Introduction to a Special Issue*
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• Roger Witherspoon, *Fukushima Rescue Missing Lasting Legacy: Radioactive Contamination of Nearly 70,000 Americans*

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

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• Asia-Pacific Journal Feature, *The Costs of Fukushima*

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• Martin J. Frid, *Food Safety: Addressing Radiation in Japan’s Northeast after 3.11*

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

• Lori Dengler and Gregory Smits, *The Past Matters: Lessons From History and From Japan’s March 11 Earthquake and Tsunami*

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• Gregory Smits, *Danger in the Lowground: Historical Context for the March 11, 2011*
Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami

2. Nuclear Meltdown: Radiation and its Consequences for People and Environment in Japan and the World

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- Kamanaka Hitomi, Katsuya Hirano, Margherita Long, Akiko Anson, *Fukushima, Media, Democracy: The Promise of Documentary Film*
- Noriko Manabe, "It's Our Turn to Be Heard": The Life and Legacy of Rapper-Activist ECD (1960-2018)
- Katsuya Hirano, Yoshihiro Amaya, and Yoh Kawano, "Save the Town": Insolvable Dilemmas of Fukushima's "Return Policy"
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- Sachie MIZOHATA, *Amartya Sen’s Capability Approach, Democratic Governance and Japan’s Fukushima Disaster*
• Greg Mitchell, From Hiroshima to Fukushima: Japan Set to Declare Wide Area Uninhabitable Due to Radiation

• APJ Feature, Tokyo Shimbun’s Devastating Critique of Fukushima Compensation Bill

• APJ Feature, Japan’s Irradiated Beef Scandal

• Cara O’Connell, Health and Safety Considerations: Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Workers at Risk of Heat-Related Illness

• Chris Busby interviewed by Norimatsu Satoko and Narusawa Muneco, Fukushima is Worse than Chernobyl – on Global Contamination

• Matthew Penney, Nuclear Workers and Fukushima Residents at Risk: Cancer Expert on the Fukushima Situation

• Robert Jacobs, Social Fallout: Marginalization After the Fukushima Nuclear Meltdown

• Makiko Segawa, Fukushima Residents Seek Answers Amid Mixed Signals From Media, TEPCO and Government. Report from the Radiation Exclusion Zone

• Say-Peace Project and Norimatsu Satoko, Protecting Children Against Radiation: Japanese Citizens Take Radiation Protection into Their Own Hands

• Sakai Yasuyuki, Japan’s Decline as a Robotics Superpower: Lessons From Fukushima

• Matthew Penney and Mark Selden, What Price the Fukushima Meltdown? Comparing Chernobyl and Fukushima

• Hirose Takashi and C. Douglas Lummis, The Nuclear Disaster That Could Destroy Japan – On the danger of a killer earthquake in the Japanese Archipelago

• Christine L. Marran, Contamination: From Minamata to Fukushima

• Paul Jobin, Dying for TEPCO? Fukushima’s Nuclear Contract Workers

• Gavan McCormack, Hubris Punished: Japan as Nuclear State

• David McNeill, Back from the Brink: A city in ruins looks to the future

• Adam Lebowitz, Blackout Nippon: Notes from 03/2011

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

• F. Dalnoki-Veress and Arjun Makhijani, What Caused the High Cl-38 Radioactivity in the Fukushima Daiichi Reactor #1?

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

• Cara O’Connell, Feeling the Heat in Fukushima

• Matthew Penney, Okinawa’s Fukushima Connection: Nuclear Workers at Risk

• Peter Karamoskos, Fukushima Burning: Anatomy of a Nuclear Disaster

• David McNeill, ‘We’ve no idea when we’ll be back’

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

• R. Taggart Murphy, 3/11 and Japan: A Hinge of History?

• Matthew Penney, "Science" and "Nature" on Fukushima

• Arjun Makhijani, Fukushima Fallout Monitoring Needed

• David McNeill, After the Quake: The Town That Was Washed Away
• John McGlynn, *Japan's Nuclear Crisis: Status of Spent Fuel at Exploded Reactor Buildings Unclear*

• David McNeill, *After the Quake: Journey to Fukushima*

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• John A. Mathews, *China's Electric Power: Results for first half 2017 demonstrate continuing green shift*

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• John A. Mathews, Mei-Chih Hu, Ching-Yan Wu, *Concentrating Solar Power – China’s New Solar Frontier*

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• Andrew DeWit, *An Emerging Fukushima Model?*

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

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• APJ Feature, *74% of Japanese Favor Nuclear Phase-out*

• Amory Lovins, *Learning From Japan's Nuclear Disaster*

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- Greg Mitchell, *New Film Explores U.S. Suppression of Key Footage from Hiroshima and Nagasaki*
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- 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/

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://fukushima.greenaction-japan.org/
http://trio4.noboby.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/updates

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, a group which aims to provide concise and easily understood commentary on important scientific issues for the general public

http://www.ieer.org/

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

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

Environmental Network News covers a range of environmental issues

http://www.enn.com/


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=9694E3E0E2E1E0E2E3E3E5E6E2EA;p=9694E3E0E2E1E0E2E3E3E5E6E2E1;o=9694E3E0E2E1E0E2E3E3E5E6E2E0

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)
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