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


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- Pinar Temocin and Noriuki Kawano, *Citizen Advocacy: The Achievements of New Zealand’s Peace Activism*

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

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• 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
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”.


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/

### 3. Japanese Mass Media (Mainly Japanese language sources)

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

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 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)

The US Department of Energy’s Fukushima site

The French IRSN’s English-language documents on Fukushima

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