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

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• 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

• Chim↑Pom with an introduction by Linda Hoaglund, The Suddenly Relevant Activist Antics of Artist Collective Chim↑Pom: Challenging Japan’s Nuclear Power Agenda

• 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

• Asia-Pacific Journal Feature, Reporters Without Borders on Discrimination Against Freelance Journalists in Japan

• Makiko SEGAWA, After The Media Has Gone: Fukushima, Suicide and the Legacy of 3.11

• 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

• Yau Shuk-ting, Kinnia, Responding to Disaster: Japan’s 3.11 Catastrophe in Historical Perspective: Special Issue of APJ

• Ran Zwigenberg, “The Coming of a Second Sun”: The 1956 Atoms for Peace Exhibit in Hiroshima and Japan’s Embrace of Nuclear Power

• Nicola Liscutin, Indignez-vous! 'Fukushima,' New Media and Anti-Nuclear Activism in Japan

• APJ Feature, What are the Consequences of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant Meltdown? Japanese Press Assessments


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

- Murakami Haruki, Speaking as an Unrealistic Dreamer
- Roger Pulvers, Murakami, the No-Nuclear Principles, Nuclear Power and the Bomb
- Wagô Ryôichi and Jeffery Angles, Pebbles of Poetry: The Tôhoku 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://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/

E-Shift, 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=9694E3E0E2E1E02E3E5E6E2EA;p=9694E3E0E2E1E02E3E5E6E2E1;o=9694E3E0E2E1E02E3E5E6E2E0

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/

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/

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

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/amenoimoharenohimo/

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/
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