

Japan Calls for Assistance on Fukushima



Tokyo, October 7 (RHC)-- Japan says it welcomes foreign assistance and expertise in containing radioactive water leaks at the crippled nuclear power plant in Fukushima.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Sunday that his country "needs your knowledge and expertise" in handling the nuclear crisis, Kyodo News quoted the premier as saying at an international science conference in Kyoto. The Japanese prime minister said: "We are wide open to receive the most advanced knowledge from overseas to contain the problem."

The comments come days after Katsuhiko Ikeda, the president of Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority, called on Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) to bring the situation at the No. one nuclear complex under control.

TEPCO also said that the contaminated water may have flown into the Pacific Ocean. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has announced plans to dispatch a team to Japan to review the progress being made in cleaning up areas surrounding the Fukushima plant.

Japan had been criticized for its reluctance in accepting foreign assistance with managing the crisis. A report released by a Japanese parliamentary panel in July said the disaster in Fukushima was not only due to the tsunami, but also a "man-made disaster."

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