

April 11, 2011

Message from JPS President

About a month ago on March 11, 2011, a gigantic earthquake hit a large area in eastern Japan. Over thirty thousand people are either missing or deceased. It was the largest earthquake in Japan with a Richter scale level of 9.0. Shaking was severe, and the tsunamis destroyed many towns. One of the nuclear power stations, Fukushima #1, had significant trouble due to its explosion and associated radiation spills.

For physics, some important facilities received serious damage. Many foreign visitors returned to their home countries. In addition, although not direct damage, research work has slowed down, and has not yet returned back to normal.

Under these circumstances, we had to suspend the Annual Physical Society Meeting, which was planned to be held in Niigata, about 200km north of Tokyo. The choice was painful for us, since the entire preparation was almost finished by staff members in Niigata.

I am also afraid that the ongoing problem in the Fukushima nuclear power station will continue for a long time. As a physicist and as a society, we must consider this issue seriously for our future.

We received many encouraging sympathy notes from major Physical Societies from around the world. Some foreign Physical Societies even offered to accept Japanese researchers. Although I replied individually, I would like to send my deepest appreciation to these messages. They are certainly encouraging to us. I also plan on conveying these messages to our Physical Society. In the future, our Physical Society may require support from foreign physical societies more than ever. On this occasion, I would like to ask for their kind help and support.

On this occasion I would also like to send our deepest sympathy to all the people who received damage from this earthquake, in particular, the members of the Physical Society of Japan.

Shoji Nagamiya

President of The Physical Society of Japan