

My Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Tokyo, 23 March 2011

On behalf of all the members of the Japan Neurosurgical Society (JNS) and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of JNS, I would like to express my most sincere appreciation for the kind and heartfelt messages received from so many of you regarding the devastating disaster in the eastern part of Japan.

Already so many of you know from TV news that the earthquake on March 11th was one of the biggest, so far, in the history of earthquakes worldwide and repeated attacks by huge Tsunami were also lethal to the eastern part of Japan, especially in the Tohoku and Kanto areas along the Pacific coast. It was really a catastrophic disaster not only to the people who were living in those areas but also to the local environment itself, including cities, towns, fields, rivers, land and so on, everything! The estimated number of dead people is more than 8000 and the missing is around 12,000.

In addition to everything else, some leakage from the nuclear power stations was recognized and unfortunately the spreading of the radiation has been noted in the surrounding area close to the northern part of Tokyo. So people living within 20 km distance from the nuclear power station were forced to move away out of that area. The National Defense Force is trying to cool down the power station by spraying water from helicopters and by using special high-pressured water pumps.

As Professor Kawase mentioned in his e-mails, a lot of support has been received in the mostly affected areas, not only from national companies, the local government and volunteers but also from foreign countries and volunteers. The gradual recovering of the roads is in progress in order to try and reach the cities mostly touched by the disaster, where refugees are waiting for help. Gasoline is less distributed to not only the peripheral parts but also even to the central parts of the cities and the northern part of Tokyo.

We, members of the JNS, already established a new Committee with the main objectives of taking the necessary measures to cope with the disaster and we also decided to donate more than 50 million JPY, to support the victims and make some funds available to support the neurosurgical hospitals which were damaged by the disaster.

On behalf of JNS, we thank you very much indeed, again, for your warm words of not only sympathy but also encouragement, which have touched us all. We will never give-up and we will do our utmost to recreate and rebuild the Japan which the disaster has taken away from us and finally we will get back the daily life of all the inhabitants in Japan, as before.

Sincerely yours,

寺本 明

Akira Teramoto

AKIRA TERAMOTO, M.D., Ph.D.
Chairman, Board of Directors
Japan Neurosurgical Society
Professor and Chairman
Department of Neurosurgery
Nippon Medical School
E-mail: a-tera@nms.ac.jp

栗栖 薫

K. Kurisu

KAORU KURISU, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman
Committee on International Affairs
Japan Neurosurgical Society
Department of Neurosurgery
Graduate School of Biomedical
Sciences
Hiroshima University
E-mail: kuka422@hiroshima-u.ac.jp

Worst earthquake in Japan (first report - later reports follow below)

Dear my friends and WFNS officers,

As you know, in the afternoon, the magnitude 8.8 earthquake, the worst record in our history attacked north Japan, mainly Sendai area. The power was 180 times stronger than Kansai-Kobe earthquake.

In the center of attacked area, peoples felt class 7 vibration. Even in Tokyo, 300 km from the center, felt class 5 vibration.

I and my wife were incidentally travelling Mito City, near the attacked area, and experienced class 6 vibration. We could not walk and sit on the open garden. It continued exceptionally long, for two hours intermittently, and an old plum tree broke down on the ground. In the evening, we tried to come back to Tokyo, but we found all the highway was closed. Other road was severely jammed and we found a lot of stone fences were falled down on the road. Our car radio announced "TSUNAMI" (giant tide) is attacking the pacific sea coast.

All the electric power was discontinued, and we drove the dark street, and fortunately came back to our home in the midnight. I found books escaped down from the shelf, but a minor damage of our home including preserved electricity and water.

Today it was gradually cleared on TV, that more than 550 people died and 750 are missing. All the coast town around Sendai area was completely destroyed by tsunami attack and fire. Numerous cars are floating on the water . The tsunami reached into several kilometers inland, Several bridges falling down and some oil tanks exploded. Now we begin to worry that officers reported high count of radiation outside of the atomic power generator in the attacked area. The last number of death may be reached to 2000, for a lot of uninformed area are still present.

It must additionally be reported that an different type of earthquake (M6) attacked Niigata area, 200 km north to Tokyo this morning. Tokyo is a fortunate city destroyed a little, having several million business man who worry how to come back to their home. All the train was stopped, and road is like a great parking. It was very difficult to use cell phone. I confirmed my two sons stayed in their office last night. It is unbelievable that in this morning, we feel small but uncomfortable earthquakes every 10 minutes still now.

Nostradams may target Japan first?

Now it is our pleasure that more than 50 country express their help to this disaster, and appreciate their submission. Now we have nothing to declare on your help because fortunately we have enough number of neurosurgeon in our country. If necessary, the President of Japanese Association will send the formal mail again.

We have to express our thanks that all of our family are uneventful, and that we have a lot of nice friends in the world.

Takeshi Kawase
First Vice-President of WFNS

Worst earthquake in Japan (second report)

Dear all of world friends,

Thank you for your warmest spiritual support to our disaster. Most of your public mails except private one were transferred to the Office of Japan Neurosurgical Society.

The second report is sent on March 15 (5th day of earthquake) from Tokyo.

Tsunami washed away every coast houses lower than 20 meters. In some city hall, even officers escaped in the 6th story were drowned by the huge tides. Peoples living in the attacked area might be trained against tsunami attack, but they, especially elders, could not have enough time to escape to the higher place. Now it is very difficult to count the number of deaths (1800 confirmed already), but still increasing day by day for numerous dead bodis are drifting and reaching to the coast now. It will be up to several thousands or more, because 15,000 peoples are still missing. Half of the attacked area is still sinking in the water, because of depression of the land or wash away their soil.

Total number of refugees are up tp 440,000, and most of them are surviving with candle in the dark area by electric failure. Most of the towns attacked by tsunami were still isolated, for they are surrounded by the sea and mountains, and all the roads are closed by huge crashed materials. They have no way to receive any information except for handy radio. Tonight the temperature begin to fall, and they have snow falling but no way to heat up. Self-Defence Force, medical workers and volunteers are cooperating for rescue, using helicopter. Relief goods, water, drugs, and foods are gradually sent, but not enough because the areas are too wide. Even in Sendai, a largest city in this area, water supply is still discontinued. Survived cars are sometimes useless for shortage of gasoline.

Japan Neurosurgical Society is working to collect present informations from hospitals in the area of disaster. We are proposing donation to the refugees, but problem is how to help for their recovery.

Our new risky problem is damage of four atomic power generators constructed along the pacific coast. They were constructed by our severe standard to resist against large earthquakes, however, this earthquake (M9.0, corrected recently) with huge tsunami was more than that.

Temperature in atomic reactor house is increasing by problem of water cooling system. Their covered buildings were lost by hydrogen explosion. The officers are doing their best to prevent from explosion of the iron house. The atomic reactors are covered by thick iron house, which is different from Russian, but the radiation level outside is increasing (lower than physically affected level). Peoples living within 20 kilometers are requested to evacuate from the area yesterday.

In Tokyo, we are affected by electric deficiency by the problem of atomic generator. Our government requested to decrease our electric consumption. Tokyo Electric Company started the "planned power failure" for several hours since yesterday. Number of running trains are decreased now. In the supermarket, flashlights, dry cells and fast foods like bread, milk and instant noodles are sold out quickly.

We are still suffering from consecutive middle class earthquakes with different origin around Tokyo, several times per day. We Japanese are accustomed to earthquake and are not panic now, but they are so horrible.

Even at 22:50, on typing this report, I was attacked by M6 earthquake with grade 4 vibration. It was quickly reported that origin was not the same but under Mt. Fuji! We do not like to remind of the past catastrophic Tokyo earthquake in 1923.

We are preparing the particular mail address in the Office of Neurosurgical Society, and please wait for further information if you have any question or anything to do for us.

Takeshi Kawase
First Vice-President of WFNS

Worst earthquake in Japan (third report)

Dear all of world friends,

The third report of worst earthquake, On March 17th, 2011 (7th day)

The consecutive earthquakes are still occur and the area of disaster was covered by snow. However, our emergency supporters are certainly enlarged in those days. Self-Defence Force, American Force are operating together, and Korea sent rescue team. In the town of disaster, DMAT(disaster medical assist team) was sent and cooperating with survived medical teams, and young refugees are supporting seniors, even in their serious condition that they lost their own family. The survivors make line patiently for distribution of food and water, even in cold and dark rooms.

Medical Companies donate great amount of medical products and drugs, and the private television is broadcasting disaster news, without commercial but moral programs "help weak and small" whole day. Japan Medical Association is collecting 500 doctor volunteers. Japan Neurosurgical Society decided to prepare donation more than 50 million yen, and cancelled all the medical congresses such as Stroke Congress and Congress of Neurosurgery scheduled within a few months, to use all the reserved funds for recovery of refugees.

In the city we have never heard plunderers or violence, and nor seen somebody break into the waiting line for transport or at buying the relief goods. Our government announced to the survivors not to buy excessively to supply relief goods and gasoline to help others. Our Japanese fundamental principle is "*consideration for others*", which has been prominent in the communities in the North-East district destroyed by the tsunami.

The overheated atomic generators are still hazardous of causing second disaster. Defence- Force is trying to spray water by helicopter and high pressure fire engines. They are consulting to the American special team concerned with construction of the generator.

It will take several months to recover the refugee's safety, but please note that our cooperation, the most remarkable character of Japanese, has already been working. This disaster is so terrible we never experienced, but we are confident that our country will be recovered quickly, as shown after disasters of the Second World War and Kobe-Osaka earthquake in 1995.

On behalf of the Japan Neurosurgical Society, we fully appreciate your international supports and warm letters described "Japan, we are with you".

Takeshi Kawase
First Vice-President of WFNS