

Japan releases Fukushima water into the ocean

24th August 2023



Japan has started releasing radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the ocean. The plant was hit by a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. After the power plant was damaged, the power company stored radioactive water in 1,000

giant tanks. The water has been treated to reduce its radioactivity. It is now being slowly released into the Pacific Ocean through a long sea tunnel. Japan stated that the water is safe and would not harm the environment. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said the water meets with international safety standards. It said there would be a "negligible radiological impact on people and the environment".

Many people in Japan, as well as countries near Japan, are angry that radioactive water is going into the Pacific. Local fishermen are worried they will not be able to sell their fish. China has already banned seafood from Fukushima and the capital city, Tokyo. China's foreign ministry called the release of the water a "wrongful decision" and asked Japan to stop. A spokesperson said: "Japan is putting its own self-interest over the long-term well-being of all humankind". Hong Kong is also worried about food safety. It said it would "immediately" stop importing some Japanese food products. South Korean activists have also protested, although Seoul understood that the water meets international standards.

Sources: cnn.com / reuters.com / mainichi.jp

Writing

Radioactive water should never be put in the ocean. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

radioactive / water / ocean / nuclear power / tunnel / safe / harm / environment / angry / fishermen / fish / banned / capital city / decision / humankind / food / activist

True / False

- 1) Japan has started releasing radioactive water into Fukushima. T / F
- 2) An earthquake totally destroyed the Fukushima nuclear power plant. T / F
- 3) The radioactive water will get to the Pacific Ocean via a long tunnel. T / F
- 4) An agency said the water would have almost no impact on people. T / F
- 5) Fisherman in Japan have no complaints about the radioactive water. T / F
- 6) China has banned all fish caught in Japanese waters. T / F
- 7) Hong Kong is banning some food from Japan. T / F
- 8) South Korea said the water meets international standards. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. started | a. damage |
| 2. huge | b. unnecessary |
| 3. reduce | c. guidelines |
| 4. harm | d. enormous |
| 5. negligible | e. concerned |
| 6. worried | f. begun |
| 7. wrongful | g. tiny |
| 8. well-being | h. protestors |
| 9. activists | i. lower |
| 10. standards | j. health |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What should Japan do to help its fishermen?
- c) Would you eat fish from the area?
- d) What else could Japan do with the water stored in tanks?
- e) Should Japan's neighbours be worried?
- f) Have you ever protested against anything?
- g) What advice do you have for people in Fukushima?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the Fukushima bosses?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. The plant was hit | a. about food safety |
| 2. stored radioactive water in | b. tunnel |
| 3. through a long sea | c. by a huge earthquake |
| 4. the water meets with international safety | d. have also protested |
| 5. a negligible radiological impact | e. standards |
| 6. they will not be able to | f. city |
| 7. China's foreign | g. 1,000 giant tanks |
| 8. the capital | h. ministry |
| 9. Hong Kong is also worried | i. on people |
| 10. South Korean activists | j. sell their fish |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the nuclear disaster at Fukushima?
- What do you think of nuclear power?
- What do you think of the water being released into the ocean?
- What is the danger of radioactive water?
- Would you live near a nuclear power plant?
- Is releasing the water OK if the IAEA says it's OK?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- How can we protect power plants from earthquakes?

Spelling

- iodeticarva water
- raleucn power plant
- a huge earthquake and mianust
- The water has been edarett
- harm the reieontvnmn
- international yftaes standards
- banned dasofeo from Fukushima
- the italpac city, Tokyo
- a wrongful cesniido
- all hkunidnma
- nggmitior some Japanese food products
- South Korean activists have also terpsodte

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. a	5. g
6. e	7. b	8. j	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Nuclear

You think nuclear is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): wind, solar or geothermal.

Role B – Wind

You think wind is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): nuclear, solar or geothermal.

Role C – Solar

You think solar is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): wind, nuclear or geothermal.

Role D – Geothermal

You think geothermal is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): wind, solar or nuclear.

Speaking – Energy

Rank these with your partner. Put the best forms of energy at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| • Nuclear | • Biofuel |
| • Wind | • Geothermal |
| • Coal-powered | • Tidal |
| • Solar | • Gas-powered |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	F	7	T	8	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.