

18 March 2011

All whom it may concern,

SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR INCIDENT



Public urged not to be unduly alarmed - *Minimal Risk of a Radiological Plume over Singapore*

1. The Singapore Government has been closely monitoring the developing situation at the Fukushima Nuclear Station and assessing its possible impact on Singapore.
2. The National Environment Agency (NEA) is in contact with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA currently categorises the nuclear incident at Fukushima as a Level 4 accident, this means that it is an "accident with local consequences".
3. Although the current situation remains serious in Japan, the incident site is more than 5,000 km away. Daily modelling studies are being conducted by NEA. Its simulations and those carried out by the World Meteorological Organization-designated Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres for Environmental Emergency Response in Tokyo and Melbourne have shown that at such a distance, **there is minimal risk of Singapore being affected by the radiological plume.** The public is advised therefore not to be unduly alarmed about exposure to radiation in Singapore arising from the Fukushima accident.
4. The NEA has nevertheless also been tracking the impact on Singapore's radiation levels through its radiation monitoring stations. **No abnormal changes** in Singapore's radiation levels have been detected so far.



Surveillance of Food Imports

5. The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) continues to keep a close watch on food imports from Japan. The AVA has increased its surveillance of food imports from Japan to ensure that they are safe for consumption.
6. Food products from Japan that were exported before 11 Mar 2011 are safe for consumption as they would not have been exposed to any radioactive contamination. These include products that are currently in the market and those which had arrived in Singapore over the last few days.



7. As a precautionary measure, samples of fresh produce exported from Japan after 11 Mar 2011, such as seafood, fruits, vegetables and meat, are being tested for radioactive contaminants.

No Need for Aircraft and Passenger Screening

8. The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) has been monitoring the potential impact of the incident on flights and airport operations. Developments so far do not necessitate the screening of aircraft or passengers for radiation. However, Changi Airport has in place contingency plans to deal with radioactive contamination.

Health Advisory

9. The Ministry of Health (MOH) assesses that it is highly unlikely that any Singaporean who was outside the evacuation zones will need any form of medical assessment as there is negligible risk, if any, of impact on health.
10. However, any returning Singaporean who was within the evacuation zones on or after 12 Mar 2011 should visit the Emergency Department of their nearby Public Restructured Hospital for a medical consultation upon arrival in Singapore.



Singaporeans advised to avoid unnecessary travel to Japan

11. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) reiterates its earlier advisory, strongly urging Singaporeans to defer non-essential travel to Japan.
12. MFA also advises Singaporeans, who are in Japan, to continue to take all necessary precautions for their personal safety, monitor the local news diligently and take heed of the Japanese government's advice and guidance. If they have any concerns about their personal safety, they should consider moving to a safer location.

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For further enquiries, you can contact our Corporate Services Help Desk at **6311 1333**.

(Adapted from MOH website)