

## **Situation at damaged Japanese nuclear plant remains ‘very serious’ – UN official**

The United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency says the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant remains serious nearly two months after it was damaged in an earthquake. The plant suffered major damage from the earthquake and tsunami that struck the country on 11 March and has been spewing radioactive contamination into the environment ever since. IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security Denis Flory says the estimated percentage of core damage to several units of the plant has been revised; core damage to Unit 1 from an estimated 70 per cent to 55 per cent, while it was revised from 30 to 35 per cent for Unit 2 and from 25 to 30 per cent for Unit 3. This reflects revisions to assessments from 15 March rather than any recent changes in conditions in the reactor cores, he says. Flory says measures being carried out by Japanese authorities’ response to the accident, include the putting in place of counter-measures against water outflow to the sea to prevent a minimized spread of the radionuclides in water.

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