

Quake could alter Tokyo time bomb

AFP, Paris

Seismologists were crunching data to figure out if the magnitude 8.9 quake that rocked Japan increased the chances of a mega-quake hitting the Tokyo basin, home to 30 million people.

The Japanese government's Earthquake Research Committee has long warned that Tokyo faces a serious risk of a major quake -- 8.0 or higher -- in the coming decades.

Japan is still haunted by the "Big One" that devastated its capital in 1923 and left more than 140,000 dead. The 1995 Kobe quake, which claimed 6,400 lives, added to this ever-present fear.

Experts said it was too soon to know if the tectonic upheaval that shook northeast Japan Friday and unleashed a 10-metre tsunami put Tokyo at greater risk.

It could even reduce the odds of a killer quake hitting the capital.

"That is going to be hotly debated in the scientific community," said Jochen Woessner, a seismologist with the Swiss Seismological Service in Zurich.

But -- one way or the other -- it is almost sure to have an impact, experts agree.

An earthquake doesn't always relieve stress -- sometimes it redistributes it, he said by phone.

"Places that have not failed during a quake can actually be more stressed by the earthquake happening beside them. But we can't tell at this stage whether it has made the next earthquake more or less likely."

For Jerome Vergne, a seismologist at Strasbourg University in eastern France, "the risk for Tokyo cannot have diminished."

"An increase in loading" -- added pressure -- "could advance the date of a future quake near Tokyo," he said.

The Japanese capital is only 300 kilometres from an underwater "triple junction" where three of the two dozen tectonic plates that comprise Earth's constantly shifting crust meet.

Tokyo sits atop the Eurasian plate. Beneath it, the Philippine Sea plate descends, or subducts, from the south, while the Pacific plate slips down from the east.

Subduction is not a slow-and-steady process, but occurs in a "stick-slip" motion that gives rise to infrequent, but massive, convulsions.

US warns of quake-related Internet scams

AFP, Washington

US computer security authorities warned on Friday that online scammers may seek to exploit the earthquake in Japan.

The US Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) told computer users to be wary of "potential email scams, fake antivirus and phishing attacks regarding the Japan earthquake and the tsunami disasters."

"Email scams may contain links or attachments which may direct users to phishing or malware-laden websites," US-CERT said in a statement.

"Phishing emails and websites requesting donations for bogus charitable organisations commonly appear after these types of natural disasters," US-CERT added.

Phishing refers to attempts to steal user names, passwords and other personal information from unsuspecting victims, mostly through email or instant messages.



PHOTO: AFP
Pedestrians stand next to collapsed houses in Minamisoma (left) and soldier carries an elderly man on his back to a shelter in Natori city as Japan launched a mammoth rescue operation after a massive earthquake of 8.9 magnitude which triggered a massive tsunami.

Japan launches huge quake rescue effort: World joins

AFP, Tokyo

International search and rescue teams rushed to Japan to spearhead a Herculean rescue and recovery effort yesterday, a day after being hit by its most devastating quake and tsunami on record.

Every wing of the Self Defence Forces of Japan was thrown into frantic service, with hundreds of ships, aircraft and vehicles headed to the Pacific coast area where at least 1,000 people were feared dead and entire neighbourhoods had vanished.

Governments around the world offered their help, with United States President Barack Obama ordering emergency aid, including an aircraft carrier, to Japan after the catastrophe he described as "simply heartbreaking."

US forces on Friday helped Japan

rapidly react by delivering a cooling agent to a nuclear plant where malfunctions threatened a dangerous meltdown.

In the utter bleakness on the east coast of Japan's main Honshu island, where at least 3,600 houses were destroyed by the 8.9-magnitude quake, there were some rays of hope amid the carnage of smashed towns and shattered lives.

Army helicopters airlifted people off the roof of an elementary school in Watari, Miyagi prefecture, and naval and coastguard choppers did the same to rescue 81 people from a ship that had been hurled out to sea by the tsunami.

In large coastal areas, entire neighbourhoods were destroyed, with unknown numbers of victims buried in the rubble of their homes or lost to the sea, where cars, shipping containers, debris and entire houses were afloat.

Japan's military started its mass

deployment Friday, when it dispatched 300 planes and an armada of 20 naval destroyers and other ships, while some 25 air force jets flew reconnaissance missions over the disaster zone.

The Tokyo and Osaka police forces and the health ministry also all quickly dispatched medical and rescue teams.

Among the international help pledged, a team from South Korea, with five rescue personnel and two sniffer dogs, was set to arrive yesterday.

Japan said it had been offered help by scores of other governments -- among them Australia, China, New Zealand, Israel, Singapore, Indonesia, India, Russia, Turkey, Germany, France, Belgium, Ukraine, Slovakia, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, Hungary, Poland, Jordan, Britain, the European Union, Chile, Spain, Greece, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Argentina and Iceland.

Nuclear Emergency in Japan

How and why the nuke reactor is a threat

THE HUFFINGTON POST

What Japan is now trying to avoid is a complete loss of power to the cooling systems at its Fukushima nuclear power plant. This would lead to a loss-of-coolant or meltdown accident -- a disaster which could have catastrophic impacts on Japan and much of the world.

Radioactive material is used in a nuclear plant as a heat source -- to boil water and produce steam that turns a turbine that generates electricity. Huge amounts of radioactive material are made to go through a chain reaction, a process in which atomic particles bombard the nuclei of atoms, causing them to break up and generate heat.

But to keep the nuclear reaction in check -- to prevent the material from overheating -- vast amounts of coolant are required -- up to a million gallons

of water a minute in the most common nuclear plants ('light water' reactors). That is why nuclear plants are sited along rivers and bays, to use the water as coolant.

If the water which cools the reactor 'core' -- its 200,000 to 300,000 pounds of radioactive fuel load -- stops flowing, the "emergency core cooling system" must send water in. If it fails, a loss-of-coolant or meltdown accident can occur.

In such an accident, the core of nuclear fuel, which in less than a minute can reach 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit, burns through the cement bottom of the nuclear plant and bores into the earth.

The problem at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear facility is that one of its six reactors lost all its power as a result of the earthquake. Back-up diesel generators didn't work, so battery power

was necessary to keep coolant water flowing. If the battery power is depleted and electric power is not otherwise restored, a loss-of-coolant accident or meltdown would ensue.

"The emergency shutdown has been conducted but the process of cooling down the reaction is currently not going as planned," explained Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano, according to CNN.

Thus, Japan declared a state of "atomic power emergency" and people living within three kilometres of the Fukushima facility were advised to evacuate.

Where the radioactivity spreads after a nuclear plant meltdown is largely a function of where winds take the radioactivity and of the rain that causes it to fall out.

Nuclear power plants are, in fact, life-threatening wherever they are --

Latin America, Island nations avoid brunt of tsunami

One Killed in California

AFP, Mexico City, San Francisco

The tsunami from Japan's powerful earthquake swept across the Pacific and caused a storm surge in the Galapagos islands of Ecuador but largely spared Latin America and Island nations surrounded by the ocean from major damage.

Meanwhile, tsunami waves from Japan's huge earthquake have killed at least one person in the United States, officials said.

A 25-year-old man was confirmed dead in California's Del Norte County after being swept into the Pacific Ocean near the mouth of the Klamath River Friday, according to local emergency officials.

A storm surge hit the island of San Cristobal in Ecuador's Galapagos Island chain some 1,000 kilometres west of the mainland, President Rafael Correa said.

Correa said the surge may have affected some dwellings but "has not endangered human life."

Elsewhere in the region, precautionary evacuations were underway but little impact was felt from the tsunami stemming from the devastating 8.9 magnitude quake that hit Friday in Japan.

Chile, Ecuador and Peru ordered evacuations of coastal areas and Ecuador also halted oil shipments amid fears of rough seas.

In Central America, the force of the tidal wave was "not as strong as expected," said Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega.

Guatemala and Panama lifted their tsunami alerts and in El Salvador, the government said "the danger is past."

Dozens of low-lying island nations were placed on alert after a monster 10-metre tsunami smashed into Japan following the devastating 8.9 magnitude earthquake centered near the northeastern city of Sendai.

The death toll from the earthquake and tsunami is expected to be more than 1,000 in Japan, but the wave appeared to have little power when it hit the South Pacific and there were no reports of lives lost.

In New Zealand, civil defence officials warned of waves of just over one metre and advised people to stay away from beach areas.

World's worst nuke accidents

March 28, 1979: 140,000 people are evacuated after an accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania, United States. The reactor's core suffers partial meltdown, causing contamination within the plant but none outside.

August 1979: A leak of uranium at a secret nuclear site near Erwin in Tennessee, United States, contaminates some 1,000 people.

January-March 1981: Four radioactive leaks occur in succession at the Tsuruga nuclear plant in Japan. According to official figures, 278 people are contaminated.

April 26, 1986: The world's worst nuclear incident occurs when Reactor Number Four at Ukraine's Chernobyl plant blows up after an experiment goes wrong. Some 200 people are seriously contaminated; of whom 32 die within three months. The accident is only revealed after a giant radioactive cloud is registered moving across northern Europe.

April 1993: An explosion at a secret reprocessing plant in Tomsk-7 in western Siberia releases a cloud of radioactive gas, including Uranium-235, Plutonium-237 and various other fissile materials. The number of casualties is unclear.

September 30, 1999: Two workers die in an accident at the uranium processing plant in Tokaimura, Japan -- the world's worst since Chernobyl.

SOUTHEAST UNIVERSITY
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Faculty Search

Southeast University is one of the fastest growing private universities in Bangladesh with current enrollment of over 12,000 students. The University invites applications for the following full-time faculty positions from eligible candidates:

Professor	English	Textile Engg.	Architecture
Associate Professor	Law & Justice	Pharmacy	All subjects in Business Studies
Assistant Professor	Economics	CSE, ITE, EEE	Physics (For Lecturers only)
Lecturer			

Minimum Qualifications

Professor	Ph.D. with 15 years of university teaching experience including 5 years as Associate Professor. At least 10 publications in reputed journals including 5 as Associate Professor.
Associate Professor	Ph.D with 7 years of university teaching experience including 4 years as Assistant Professor. At least 6 publications in reputed journals including 3 as Assistant Professor.
Assistant Professor	Ph.D with excellent academic background Or Master's Degree with 4 years of university teaching experience and at least 4 publications in reputed journals.
Lecturer	Master's Degree in relevant discipline with minimum GPA 4.00 on a 5.00 point scale in SSC & HSC/O & A levels and CGPA 3.5 on a 4.00 point scale at Tertiary levels or First Class/Division in all public exams. Candidates with Foreign degree will get preference. Academic results in Tertiary level may be relaxed for candidates in English & Law. Graduate engineers with 1st class in Textile Engineering may also apply.
Demonstrator (Physics)	Master's Degree in relevant discipline with minimum GPA 4.00 on a 5 point scale in SSC & HSC/O & A levels and CGPA 3 on a 4 point scale at Tertiary levels or all first divisions/classes. Minimum 3 years experience in relevant field.

- Southeast University offers attractive compensation package including two festival bonuses (each equal to basic salary), Contributory P.F, gratuity, leave encashment and other fringe benefits based on eligibility.
- Study leave is available for higher studies (eligible candidates may obtain admission in MPhil/Ph.D. from the universities having collaboration with Southeast university).
- Professors/Associate Professors with relevant experience may be appointed as Dean/Department Chair in certain Schools/Departments subject to the availability of vacancies.
- 2 to 4 years' contractual appointments are also available.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. The above conditions may be relaxed for exceptionally qualified candidates.
- A detailed CV with two referees, cover letter, copies of certificates & mark sheets and two copies of photographs should be sent to "The Registrar" of the University at the above address on or before **24 March 2011**.

JAPAN QUAKE Web helps people locate loved ones

AFP, Tokyo

Searching the Internet on sites such as Google, Twitter and their local variants has become more effective in finding loved ones than sifting through wreckage following Japan's devastating tsunami.

Frantic friends and relatives leapt onto their computers to find information about people who had not been heard from since the mighty wave crashed ashore Friday.

Global web giant Google's person finder service had notched up over 45,000 records of people leaving messages seeking information on friends and family, or providing information about people in the disaster zone.

The site was updating, in English and Japanese, by the hundred every few minutes.

Gunduzhan posted a message seeking Aki Sato, a dentist from Sendai who studied at Ohu University in Koriyama. A photo of the young woman was also posted on the site.

"Looking for Aki Sato," the post read. "Last heard from after earthquake but before tsunami."

Another post seeking Fatima Sato had some good news -- "Mom is ok. She is on her way home."

The international and Japanese Red Cross also set up a similar site.

And micro-blogging site Twitter was updating every second with messages of good will, of condolences and offering aid.

People were updating information on fears of meltdown following an explosion at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

"Radiation's growing, they are collecting iodine. If wind blows too much may move it all to Russia, China, Philippines & over the Pacific. But come on! It's not Chernobyl yet," wrote fabrykamagazine.

A service was also being shared on Twitter, enabling people to donate to the Red Cross via text message, the donation being added to phone bills.

Some tweets were posted by international celebrities such as the American singer Lady Gaga, who launched a bracelet campaign to support the relief effort.

She asked her legion of fans -- whom she calls "Little Monsters" -- to buy a bracelet on her website with the message, "We Pray for Japan". All proceeds will go to relief efforts, she said.

Other pop stars offered condolences. R&B icon Alicia Keys wrote on her Twitter account: "My heart breaks for Japan."

And Canadian teen idol Justin Bieber called Japan "one of my favorite places on Earth".

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Employment Opportunity

Southeast University is one of the fastest growing Universities in Bangladesh. The University invites applications for the following positions from eligible candidates:

Name of the Post	Minimum Qualification & Experience
Deputy Registrar	Master's Degree with 13 years' experience in administrative work. Candidates with administrative experience in any renowned University will be given preference.
Assistant Registrar	Master's Degree with 8 years' experience in respective fields. Candidates with administrative experience in any renowned University will be given preference.
Network Administrator	B. Sc in Computer Science with MCSE, A+, CCNA/CCNP, RHCE. Candidate should have 6 to 8 years practical experience in the relevant fields.
IT Officer/ Network Officer	B. Sc. in Computer Science/ Diploma with MCSE, RHCE, CCNA. Candidate should have minimum 2 years' practical experience in the relevant fields.
Program Officer	Master's Degree in any discipline with 3 years' working experience.
Asst. Section Officer, Admission	Master's Degree in any discipline. Candidates with relevant experience will be given preference.
Asst. Accounts Officer	Master's Degree in Accounting from a reputable University. Candidates with relevant experience will be given preference.
Asst. Section Officer, Exam.	Master's Degree in any discipline. Candidates with relevant experience will be given preference.
Asst. Section Officer, Library	Bachelor's Degree with Diploma in Library and Information Science or similar discipline. Candidates with relevant experience will be given preference.
Front Desk Officer	Master's Degree in any discipline. Female candidates with relevant experience will be given preference.
Lab Assistant for Textile Engg.	Diploma in Textile Engineering (Fabric Manufacturing and Yarn Manufacturing). Candidate with relevant experience will be given preference.

- Candidates with 3rd class/division or CGPA below 3.0 in any public examination need not apply.
- Southeast University offers attractive compensation package including two festival bonuses (each equal to basic salary), CPF, Gratuity, leave encashment benefits etc. as per service rules.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be called for written test and interview.
- The detailed job description is available at www.bdjobs.com
- Computer literacy and proficiency in English, both oral and written, are essential for all the positions.
- A detailed CV with a cover letter, copies of all certificates and mark sheets and two copies of recent color photographs should be sent to "The Registrar" Southeast University on or before **20 March 2011**.