

PERSONAL REPORT FROM SUBUD JAPAN CHAIR

Dr. Masayuki Nagamine

A report written by our Chair, Dr. Masayuki Nagamine, five days after the mega-earthquake and ensuing Tsunami on Friday March 11. Even in Chiba prefecture, next to Tokyo, where he lives, the infrastructure is still disrupted.

I was working at a hospital when the earthquake occurred. It was the biggest quake which I had ever experienced. That evening, as the transportation network was not working, I was stuck overnight there.

In Urayasu-city, where I live, there are problems related to the liquefaction of soil, as a result of Friday's massive quake. We have seen unaccustomed surroundings like land partly swollen up or the settling of houses etc.

My 10th floor flat has turned into something like a jungle, littered with books and so on, my bookshelves having fallen. I can hardly walk in it. As the water supply has been cut off in our building, I have to spend time to carry water from another place, and can't even take a bath. I am also without a flushing toilet, of course. Further, as a result of the explosion of gas tanks in Chiba, the gasoline shortage has become serious. On Tuesday, I got only ten liters of fuel after waiting in line for two hours. Due to a shortage of power, TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) has instituted blackouts. Following this procedure, Tokyo and its surrounding prefectures, divided into five groups, are subject to rolling power cuts for periods of up to three hours. I'm wondering how we can or could (-I have experienced it yesterday) manage to drive without accident, in heavy traffic jams, even though there are no traffic signals (-due to power cuts) and no police officers to direct traffic at intersections. As train services have been also reduced as part of power-saving efforts, it took me two and a half hours to reach my hospital instead of forty minutes in normal times.

That is what I can tell you about my daily life affected as it is by the earthquake and tsunami even in a city far away from the epicenter. I think that the situation in the directly stricken areas, as well as the ongoing nuclear crisis, is beyond anyone's imagination. The difficulty which I'm facing now is nothing compared to what people in devastated areas have experienced. In this ordeal time, I can't say what we can do to overcome this national crisis. But I believe that the most essential thing is that we, all Japanese, without complaining of our daily inconvenience, provide relief to the victims as much as possible and do our best to restore the regions severely damaged.