

Phone Conversation between PM Kan and PM Key (14 March 2011)

On 14 March 2011, the Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan held a telephone conversation with Rt. Hon. John Key, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

1. At the outset, following words of deepest sympathy with regard to the recent earthquake in Christchurch, Prime Minister Kan made the following remarks.

(1) After the earthquake in New Zealand, the largest earthquake in recorded history occurred in Japan. I am grateful for the sympathy and the offer of assistance from the Government of New Zealand.

(2) The Government and the people of Japan are working together on from the enormous damage caused by the earthquake. The Government of Japan is united in dealing with relief and rescue activity.

(3) I thank the New Zealand Government for the prompt dispatch of the New Zealand rescue team. I would like to ask them to work in cooperation with Japanese rescue team.

(4) We would like to make every effort to confirm and secure the safety of New Zealand nationals in the affected areas.

(5) With regard to the nuclear power plant, at this point, it seems that there is no damage which has affected the containment of the reactor. I would like to continue to make every effort to ensure safety.

2. In response to this, Prime Minister Key made the following remarks.

(1) On behalf of New Zealand, I would like to express my deepest sympathy to the Japanese people. All the people of New Zealand are shocked and distressed by the earthquake in Japan which occurred soon after the earthquake in Christchurch.

(2) New Zealand is a friend of Japan. We are ready to provide any further assistance. Please don't hesitate to make this request.

(3) Japan's severe situation may continue for several weeks or months. However, I believe that, under the leadership of Prime Minister Kan, the people of Japan will take strong steps to put this tragedy behind them and proceed to a path towards the reconstruction.