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## IAEA team briefed on Fukushima accident

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A team from the International Atomic Energy Agency has launched a full investigation into the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident with briefings by Japanese officials in Tokyo.

The team of 18 experts from 12 countries including Britain, France and South Korea was briefed on Wednesday by officials of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, or NISA, the Nuclear Safety Commission and the technology and science ministry.

At the Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry, NISA Director-General Nobuaki Terasaka explained an analysis by the Tokyo Electric Power Company, or TEPCO, of suspected meltdowns involving the plant's Number 1, 2 and 3 reactors.

TEPCO says a fuel meltdown likely occurred at the Number 1 reactor 15 hours after the magnitude-9.0 earthquake on March 11th, and that meltdowns also likely occurred at reactors 2 and 3 within days of the disaster.

Terasaka said Japan is striving to shift its efforts from stopgap measures to organized, stable containment of the accident.

The team's leader Michael Weightman said it will submit its findings at a meeting of the UN nuclear agency next month. He asked Japan to share all information so that the international community can learn from the country's experience.

The team is to visit the plant on Thursday and plans to submit an outline of its findings to the government next Wednesday.

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