# Responding to Public Fears on Transboundary Radioactive Contamination from Fukushima Daiichi Accident

Marina Mishar Atomic Energy Licensing Board Malaysia



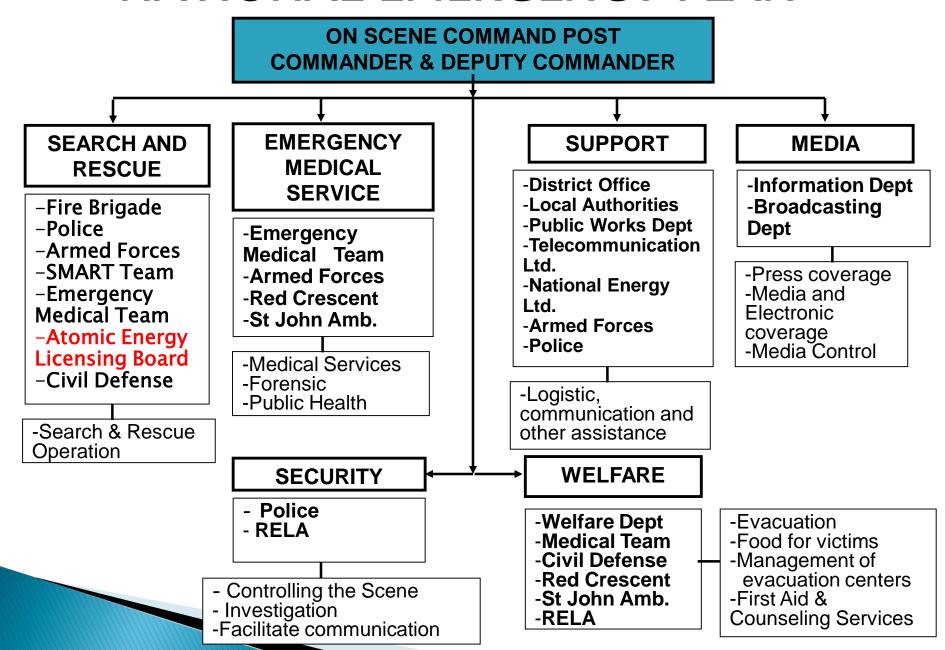
# Japan and Malaysian Public

- Same region and close relation (culture, economic, education, distance)
- Established Japanese companies in Malaysia
- Further education program Malaysian students
- Japanese food products
- Among favorite location for Malaysian tourist

## Immediate Reactions

- Immense number of calls received
  - Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB)
  - Malaysian Nuclear Agency (MNA)
- Accident on Friday afternoon
  - Saturday and Sunday public holiday
  - Non-technical staffs security guards, receptionist
- Request for analysis and actions to be taken
  - Only verbal assurance is not adequate

### NATIONAL EMERGENCY PLAN





#### **ATOMIC ENERGY LICENSING BOARD**

#### National Radiological Emergency Center (NREC)

DATA
TRANSMISSION TO
NREC in AELB HQ



**SEAPORT** 





Press release











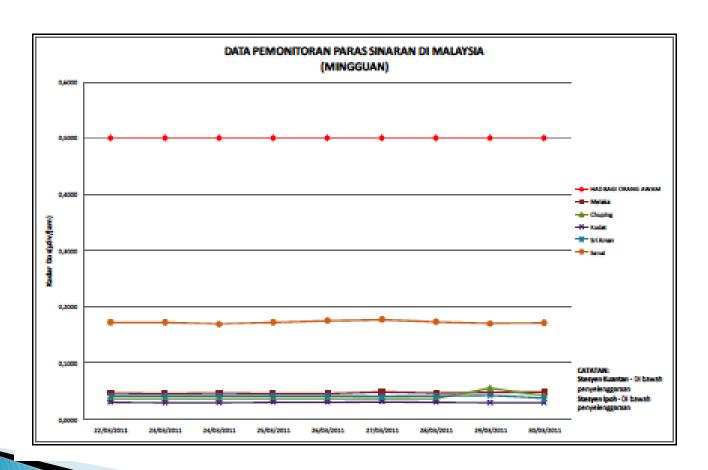


# Immediate Actions Taken

- Handling queries
  - Scripted text for non-technical staffs In answering calls
  - Directives to AELB/MNA to direct queries to NREC
  - More information from official websites (AELB, MNA, MOSTI, Japan's, IAEA, MOFA)
- Activate NREC as call center with toll free number 24/7 – 2 shifts; resource from AELB and MNA
- Anticipated FAQ uploaded at AELB, MNA, MOSTI website.
- Issue daily Press Release

## Further Actions Taken

Sharing of ERMS's weekly data on AELB's website



## Further Actions Taken

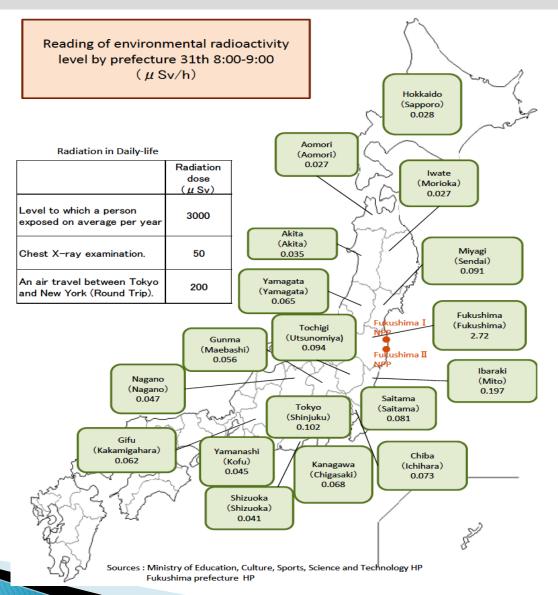
- Offered free radioactive contamination screening
  - Offered free at NREC and Malaysian Nuclear Agency
  - Opened from 8 am to 6 pm, daily
- Issue daily Press Release coordinated between various agencies
  - Same information and authorized press release text posted on agencies websites.
  - Additional, detailed information relevant to each agencies' responsibilities were available on each website
- Opened NREC for visits by media

#### Environmental Sampling: water, soil and vegetation

Detection of I-131 and Cs-137 contamination



# MONITORING OF INFORMATION (IAEA, NISA AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENT)



#### Gradual Reduction of Screening Activities





13.3.11

 Screening of passenger and crew in front of aircraft door

7.4.11

 Screening of passenger and crew at exit way in airport building

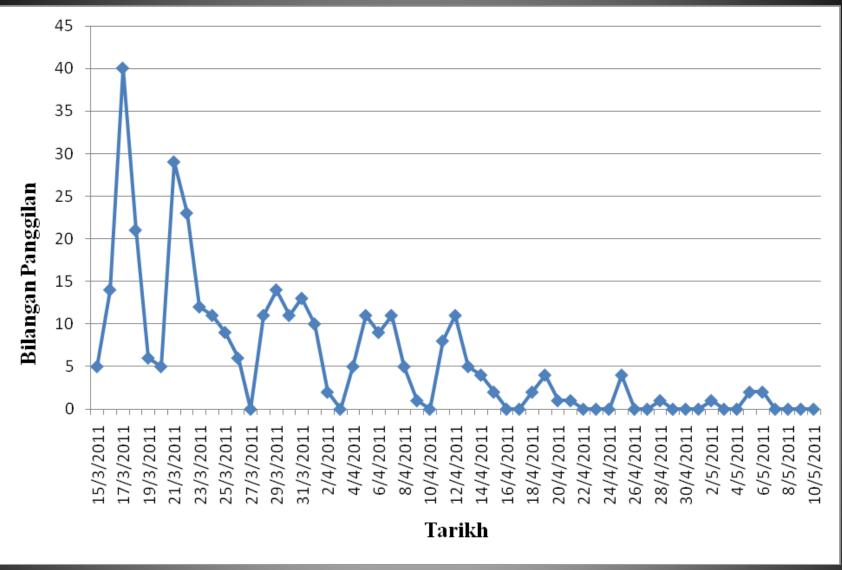
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 Proposed: Screening service at NREC and Malaysian Nuclear Agency.

#### **Summary of Actions Taken**

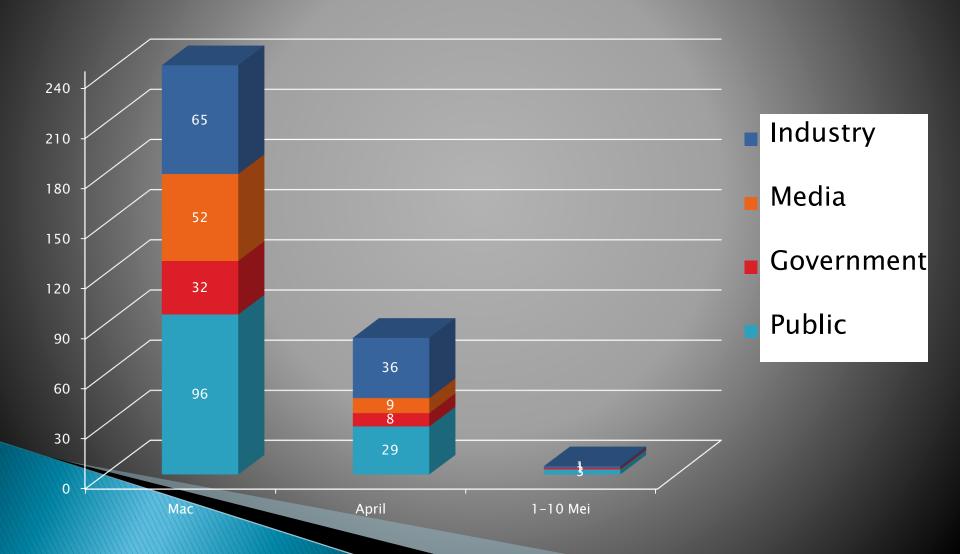
- 353 queries handled at NREC
- 40 individuals came for free screening at AELB/MNA
- 412 screening at airports
- 12/5/3 environmental sampling locations (Mac –Mei /Jun Ogos/ Sept)
- 42 press statements
- 9 cabinet papers
- 2 press conference including at NREC
- 4 seminars to industries

# **Analysis of Public Concerns**



(Recorded) Calls Received By NREC

# Categories of Callers



# Most Asked Questions Recorded

- Situation in Japan specifically radiation level
- Screening and monitoring carried out by AELB
- Confirmation on screening at Malaysian seaports
- Safety of food products imported from Japan
- Confirmation of screening at Malaysian airports
- Shift of concerns :
  - initial month more calls from public (39%)
  - Second month more calls from industry (44%)

### Assurance of the Public, Media, Industry

- Addressing concerns immediately situation in Japan, impact to Malaysia and Malaysians
- Need to see actions being taken sometimes actions taken are not in line with threat level
- Comparisons with what other countries are doing

# Lessons Learned and Way Forward

## **Lessons Learned**

- Evaluation of AELB and Malaysia's radiological and nuclear emergency preparedness.
- Good crisis management will increase public confidence towards AELB as the nuclear regulatory body and toward nuclear power program ini Malaysia
- Evaluation of the technical knowledge, skill and expertise in Malaysia i.e. AELB, MNA and other agencies
- Evaluation of technical equipment capability and whether their specification are able to address the required functions

# Methodologies of Evaluation

- Post Mortem discussion among responders
- Surveys to public and responders
- Gap Analysis of NREC (Ohio Emergency Operation Center Grant Funding Mandatory Criteria – standard criteria for a Emergency Response Center

## Good Practices Identified

- Coordinated information release . Consistent, factual information by various authorities, national and internationally reassured and comforted the public and industry;
- Various avenues for information dissemination ensured information can be obtained and received by all that required them;
- Close cooperation with the Japanese Embassy in Malaysia in providing latest information
- Timely actions on information dissemination including anticipated questions by the public and media inc rumor control
- Evidence of the NREC, its facilities and equipment have the means and capability to monitor and protect its people, environment and property

# Items for Improvements

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# Pertinent Areas For Improvements

- Handling media queries
- Preparation of report especially on what happened at the nuclear power plants
- Knowledge and capabilities of responders
- Technological equipment performance

## Conclusions

- No radiological impact to Malaysia detection so far
- A valuable experience in handling public queries and carrying out screening, monitoring and sampling activities during emergency
- Lessons learned and improvements area identified will assist in enhancing Malaysia's capability in ERP

## **TERIMA KASIH**

Thank you.