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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. **427**

PREPARED BY



Introduced By Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN CONVEYING ITS
PROFOUND SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN WHO SUFFERED
AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE DISASTER BROUGHT BY
THE RECENT EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2011, an 8.9 magnitude earthquake hit the east coast of Sendai, about 231 miles northeast of Tokyo, Japan;

WHEREAS, within an hour after the earthquake, a massive 10-meter tsunami hit the coasts of the eastern islands of Japan, killing thousands, leveling homes, and sweeping away cars and boats. Aftershocks followed reaching 5 to 6 magnitude experienced in Tokyo and in different parts of Japan;

WHEREAS, according to media reports, the total number of confirmed deaths caused by the disaster now stands at 1,596. In Minami Sanriku, a coastal town in northeastern Japan, it has been estimated that some 9,500 people -- half the town's population -- may be unaccounted for;

WHEREAS, there are reports that the Japanese government declared an emergency in a locality where a nuclear power plant is situated near Sendai, 180 miles from Tokyo. Japan has a total of 54 nuclear power plants. Four of these nuclear plants which are located in places within the vicinity where the earthquake happened were immediately shut down;

WHEREAS, media reports have shown that a small amount of radioactive Cesium has escaped from a nuclear plant in Fukushima prefecture. According to the officials of Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Agency, the leak could have been caused by the melting of a fuel rod. The cooling systems of two reactors at the Fukushima No.1 nuclear power plant failed after the earthquake struck. Both reactors are in danger of melting down with potentially serious environmental consequences;

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of people have already been evacuated from within a 20 - kilometer or 12.4 - mile radius from the Fukushima nuclear power plant. According to media reports, at least 22 people are now said to be being treated for the effects of exposure to radiation;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the massive effect of the recent catastrophe to Japan, the preparedness of the Japanese government in earthquake and tsunami disasters is commendable which may have averted far worse consequences;

WHEREAS, according to Japan Prime Minister Naoto Kan, the recent disaster is the greatest hardship experienced by Japan since World War II as the nation tackles the aftermath of an earthquake, tsunami and a growing nuclear crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to express the sense of the Senate in conveying its profound sympathies to the people of Japan who suffered as a consequence of the disaster brought by the recent earthquake and tsunami.

Approved,



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator