memo

Re: Initial Survey, 11 March 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami

31 Mar 2011

SPA

C. Scawthorn (SPA Risk), J. Kiyono (Kyoto University), H. Sakai (Hiroshima Inst. Tech.)

This memo is written for non-Japanese investigators planning field surveys, and is based on a field survey 28-30 March. The map at right shows areas surveyed - for reference, the red pointer is Fukushima NPP, and our base was Utsunomiya. The locations visited are shown in the map below: March 28 (yellow) was over to the coast at the southern limit of significant runup, surveying liquefaction and tsunami runup at Oarai port, Hitachi City and further north. March 29 (green) was north to Fukushima City and then east to the coast at Soma and Shinchi (latter had about 2.5 km inland runup). March 30 was to Naganuma, site of the failure of an approximately 15 m high earthen dam, location shown by purple pointer with yellow dot.



Logistics: We traveled without a

special pass and rented a hybrid car in Tokyo (Honda Fit) which allowed about 700 km on a full tank of gas. Our base was a hotel in Utsunomiya about an hour north of Tokyo, where conditions are quite normal. Gasoline north of Utsunomiya is generally unavailable at this time, so the radius for investigation is about as shown by the tracks. Travel is generally unimpeded except where roads are closed (ie, near the nuclear power plants, and at damaged roads).

Summary Findings: As already observed by many, tsunami was the overwhelming cause of damage, - in the runup areas depths of 1 meter caused major damage to ordinary construction and runup of 2 meters near total destruction. Runup of 7 meters was not uncommon, with a reported maximum of 17m. Outside the tsunami runup, sporadic liquefaction, slope failures and minor structural damage was observed, as follows:

- **Geotechnical** effects outside the tsunami area appear limited there are few slope failures relative to other earthquakes in Japan, and widespread liquefaction was not observed except in port areas.
- **Buildings** immediately beyond the runup area, and almost everywhere, were remarkable for lack of major damage. There is reportedly major shaking building damage at the Tohoku University campus in Sendai, but we didn't get that far.
- Infrastructure:
 - Roads: some slope failures, and disrupted pavements.
 - **Bridges**: some damage, but mostly undamaged. Did observe some coastal bridges washed away by tsunami (only abutments remained) at Shinchi. Usual settlement at abutments.
 - **Railroads**: There are two main N-S lines: the coast line, which is destroyed at several locations by tsunami, and will be out of service for months, and the inland main line

(including Shinkansen – approximately the green line in the map) which reportedly had structural damage to viaducts near Sendai. We observed the viaducts all along its route as far as Fukushima City, and didn't observe significant structural damage.

- **Electric Power**: beyond the nuclear plants, there are eight major fossil fuel power plants out of service, constituting 11% of Japan's entire installed capacity. This is a major disruption. See discussion below at Ports.
- Telecom: Cell towers and service OK as of the time of our visit.
- **Water and Wastewater**: appeared generally restored, with few excavations for pipe replacement. Observed a number of undamaged at grade water tanks.
- **Oil Tanks**: a number of large (50,000 kt) oil tanks were observed at several locations, with no apparent signs of sloshing or other damage.
- **Ports**: Ports are heavily impacted by tsunami, but also have quay damage due to liquefaction, reminiscent of Kobe. Soma is a significant deepwater port a coal pier there serves the 2000 MW Soma Kyodo electric generating station and had its coal conveyor destroyed by the tsunami, as well as collapse of two of four major coal bucket cranes.
- **Shipping**: Nine major vessels totaling about 540,000 dwt were grounded or more seriously damaged.
- Fisheries: large numbers of fishing boats have been destroyed.

Selected photos follow (all georeferenced – the orange stamped locations are only approximate – use the lat/long at bottom), which should be self-explanatory from above text. The first author will be posting about 1,000 such photos to <u>www.sparisk.com</u> as soon as possible, and can be reached at <u>cscawthorn@sparisk.com</u>. Also attached is a scan of a page from Asahi newspaper showing areas of runup (pink) and still standing water (red) as well as tsunami wave heights, with key locations in English.







Memo re Initial Survey, 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami 31 March 2011



























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亘理町

設調

藤田

山湿熱

大内

古田

各地の津波の高さ

1 茨城県

数字は行。相馬は7.3行以上、宮古は8.5行 以上と推定。大洗・相馬・宮古は気象庁、福 -原発は東京電力、仙台新港・石巻・ 島第· 大船渡・釜石・八戸は港湾空港技術研究 所、女川・南三陸は早稲田大の調べ

福島県

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Shinchi cho hi

」相馬港



2km



