

Chronology of Events

March. 2011

March 15 – April 15

15

Japan's Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant exploded, heightening the crisis of radiation leaks. Radiation levels at the main gate of Reactor No. 2 were detected to have risen to eight times normal (8,837 uSv/hr). Low levels of radiation floated toward Tokyo, 250km from the plant, and radiation levels in the capital once surged to 20 times normal.

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National Security Bureau Director Tsai Der-sheng confirmed that China had begun deploying the new Dong Feng-16 (DF-16) ballistic missiles targeted at Taiwan and aiming at preventing the U.S. military from intervening in a war between Taiwan and China. In addition, China has also been fielding the DF-21D ballistic missiles developed to attack U.S. aircraft carriers, said Tsai.

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A public opinion poll conducted by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) showed as high as 76.5% of interviewees considered the construction of Taiwan's Fourth Nuclear Power Plant should be halted to allow for a comprehensive review; only 18.6% of respondents held a reserved attitude toward the suspension of the nuclear plant project.

18

The UN Security Council authorized the U.S. and its allies to use force against Col. Muammar Qaddafi's troops and approved a non-fly zone over Libya. Libyan Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa announced an immediate ceasefire and stoppage of all military actions in Libya.

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American and European forces opened air assaults on Libyan leader Colonel Qaddafi's troops outside Benghazi in a military intervention.

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Former premier Su Tseng-chang announced through his office his decision to seek the DPP's nomination for the 2012 presidential election.

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A report in The Wall Street Journal pointed out that there are 14 nuclear plants around the world built near highly active earthquake fault lines and that among them are all of Taiwan's four nuclear stations.

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Internet search engine giant Google accused the Chinese government of harassing Google's Gmail service in China by making it difficult for Gmail users to log in to their accounts or use the email service in the country.

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Former vice president Annette Lu announced that she had dropped her bid for the DPP presidential nomination. Shortly afterwards, former premier Su Tseng-chang officially declared that he would seek the party's nomination for the coming presidential election.

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Minister of the Interior Jiang Yi-huah unveiled results of a public opinion poll during a question-and-answer session in the Legislative Yuan, which showed more than 60% of the respondents support the two electoral reforms—the implementation of absentee voting and the combination of the presidential election with legislative elections. When asked to choose either a combination of the elections or absentee voting to be implemented first, interviewees expressed higher support for the former reform than for the latter.

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A magnitude-6.8 earthquake hit the Golden Triangle region in Myanmar. The shallow earthquake, just 10km below the ground's surface, had killed at least 75 people and disrupted communications in remote areas.

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Former U.S. ambassador to the UN John Bolton said in an exclusive interview with The Liberty Times that if the will of Taiwanese people requests to maintain the status quo rather than seeking unification with China, then efforts have to be made to let Washington understand the desire and concern of the people of Taiwan.

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Tens of thousands of people continued demonstrations in the major southern Syrian city of Dara'a, demanding the government to carry out democratic reforms. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad made a rare public pledge to look into granting Syrians greater freedom.

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The DPP concluded registration of candidates vying for the party's presidential nomination. The three contenders are Su Tseng-chang, DPP Chair Tsai Ing-wen, and former DPP chair Hsu Hsin-liang. Annette Lu had announced that she would drop her bid for the party's presidential nomination.

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Amidst anti-nuclear consciousness heightened by the nuclear calamity in Japan, Germany's anti-nuclear Green Party defeated Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats in the state elections of Baden-Württemberg and was poised to head a state government for the first time.

29

Former U.S. deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage visited Taiwan. He emphasized America's determination to defend democracy and expressed support for the earliest possible passage of U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, which include the F-16 C/D fighter jets.

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Myanmar's military government had been dissolved and had handed power to a normally elected civilian government, ending almost 50 years of military rule in the country.

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Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's authority suffered a significant blow when his foreign minister and one of his closest allies Moussa Koussa fled to London in an airplane and defected to the UK.

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The Presidential Office named an alternative nominee, National Taiwan University Professor Tang De-zong, to the Council of Grand Justices after its original nomination of Supreme Court Judge Shao Yen-ling to the post triggered criticism from various sectors. Shao's [controversial ruling in a sexual assault case involving an under-aged girl] sparked the White Rose Movement last year.

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China published its "2010 Defense White Paper," which stated that the two sides of the Taiwan Strait can begin contacts and exchanges at an appropriate time to discuss military issues as well as the establishment of a military and security mutual trust mechanism. The paper further suggested the two sides start to hold pragmatic discussions on "the political relations in the special situation before the unification of the country."

April, 2011

01

The Legislative Yuan's plenary session passed the third reading of the Organic Statute for Anti-Corruption Administration to pave way for the reorganization of an anti-corruption agency under the Ministry of Justice into the Anti-Corruption Administration, which will have the right to carry out judicial investigations.

03

President Ma Ying-jeou attended a lunch meeting entitled "All People Reject the Kuokuang Petrochemical Plant; Tens of Thousands Are Campaigning for Their Health" in Fangyuan Township, Changhua County. The audience angrily heckled the president and shouted "step down" when he refused to sign a letter promising his "opposition to the construction project of the Kuokuang Petrochemical Plant."

04

U.S. President Barack Obama announced his 2012 re-election campaign bid.

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The political deadlock in Ivory Coast in the wake of its presidential elections had turned into a civil war. UN and French forces jointly bombarded Ivory Coast's strongman leader Laurent Gbagbo's presidential palace and various bases. America President Obama also called on Gbagbo to "immediately step down."

06

A report of investigation published by the Control Yuan stated that land subsidence prevention projects in Changhua and Yunlin counties have not yielded expected results, that the rate of subsidence in the region has quickened instead of slowing down, and that, to prevent the subsidence problem from deteriorating, water-intensive industries such as the Kuokuang Petrochemical Plant should not be introduced to the region.

07

A magnitude-7.4 earthquake struck Miyagi Prefecture in northeast Japan at night. The epicenter was 40km off the east coast of the Oshika Peninsula and was 40km below the seabed. Waves of one foot reached the coastal area of Miyagi. No serious damage was reported.

08

The “2010 Country Report on Human Rights Practices” published by the U.S. State Department stated that Taiwan is already a free country and that its principal human rights problems are corruption, violence and discrimination against women and children, trafficking in persons, and abuses of foreign workers.

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The DPP held the first policy platform presentation in its presidential primary and the three contenders, Su Tseng-chang, Tsai Ing-wen, and Hsu Hsin-liang offered their visions for the nation and plans for Taiwan’s future as well as proposing challenges to the incumbent President Ma Ying-jeou.

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Japan held elections for 12 governors and members of 41 prefectural assemblies. The ruling Democratic Party of Japan failed to secure a majority in any of the prefectural assemblies, while Shintaro Ishihara was re-elected for his fourth term as governor of Tokyo.

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With the support of UN peacekeepers and French troops, the internationally recognized president-elect of Ivory Coast Alassane Ouattara’s forces arrested the country’s former leader Laurent Gbagbo and his family in a bunker.

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The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan upgraded the nuclear incident in No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 reactors of Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant to INES (International Nuclear Events Scale) Level 7, the most severe level on the scale.

13

Egypt’s prosecutor general ordered the detention of former president Hosni Mubarak and his sons Alaa and Gamal for 15 days, ahead of an investigation into corruption and abuse allegations.
