

The 5th emergency recommendation regarding the response to the Great East Japan Earthquake

Utilization of robot technology for the accident of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant

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Science Council of Japan

Great East Japan Earthquake Task Force

Regarding the urgent tasks in dealing with the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, in order to alleviate the high radiation exposure to repair workers and resulting delays in the repairs, there have been strong demands that the bountiful domestic and international robot technologies be quickly, flexibly, and effectively utilized for the monitoring of the radiological dosage in each location of the plant, photographing the interior, sampling, setting up sensors, operating equipment, and assisting in various other repair operations. Construction of a sustainable system integrating operations at the site with research and development is urgently needed to effectively handle this accident whose state is continuously changing.

The central government should act urgently in this matter, encouraging the continuous utilization of robot technologies that can be adapted to the situation of the plant by organizing a joint team comprised of the electric power company in charge of the actual site operation, fire departments, Japan Self-Defense Forces, the ministries concerned, robot specialists, and nuclear power plant and radiation specialists, giving this team requisite authority, and having it collaborate with the technical support team consisting of domestic and foreign universities, laboratories, and companies involved in robotics that has already started working. The Science Council of Japan as well as robotics related societies have committed themselves to full support for these efforts.