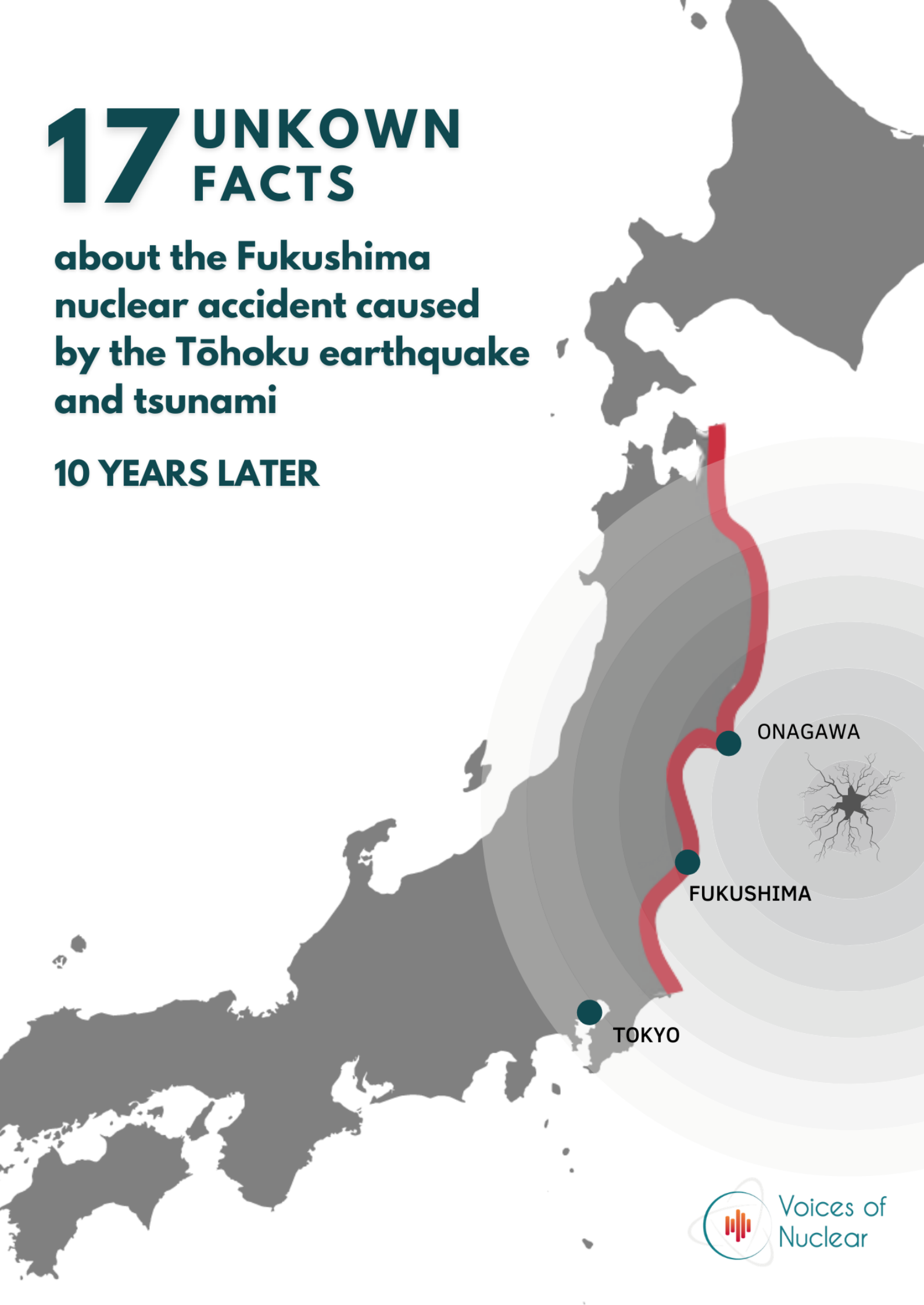


17 UNKNOWN FACTS

about the Fukushima
nuclear accident caused
by the Tōhoku earthquake
and tsunami

10 YEARS LATER



ONAGAWA

FUKUSHIMA

TOKYO

17 unknown facts about the Fukushima nuclear accident caused by the Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami

1. The radioactive releases from the accident at the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant resulted in exposure of the population so low that 10 years later no casualties have been recorded and no observable increase in cancer or death is expected.
2. The natural disaster of March 11, 2011 (the Tōhoku earthquake followed by the tsunami) is responsible for nearly 18,500 direct victims. It also caused some fifty industrial accidents, which themselves had health and environmental consequences. However, the world has mainly focused on the nuclear accident at Fukushima despite a considerably lower health record.
3. The radioactive releases from the nuclear accident had no observable impact, and none is expected, on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems beyond the immediate surroundings of the plant.
4. The level of radioactivity in the Fukushima region today is comparable to natural radioactivity in many parts of the world with no proven impact on health.
5. Discharge of "radioactive" water containing tritium to the sea (expected from 2022) will have no impact on ecosystems. The water will immediately return to concentrations compatible with the recommendations for drinking water.
6. An earthquake and tsunami of the magnitude of those of March 11, 2011 in Japan are not possible in France. Even if an accident with fuel melting is possible, it remains very unlikely and with most likely less serious consequences.
7. The prolonged shutdown of Japanese nuclear power plants following the Fukushima accident abruptly deprived the country of 30% of its electricity, which is, even today, largely offset by fossil fuels (coal and natural gas), increasing considerably Japan's greenhouse gas emissions.
8. Following the Fukushima nuclear accident, many countries closed safe and operational nuclear power plants or put an end to their construction projects, negatively and lastingly impacting global efforts to fight global warming.
9. By 2035, it is estimated that there could be up to 260,000 premature deaths in the world and nearly 17.8 billion tonnes of CO² emitted (i.e. 6 months of global emissions), due to fossil fuels that replaced the operational and safe nuclear power plants that were shut down following the Fukushima accident.
10. Public perception of nuclear risk and its consequences (probability and severity of accidents) is disproportionate to reality.

11. The main health impact of the accident is a consequence of the evacuation and fear. It is the well-being and mental health of affected populations; only made worse by the outrageous media treatment, anxiety-provoking communication from anti- nuclear militant movements and the stigmatization by the rest of the population.
12. Recent research questions the magnitude, suddenness and duration of the evacuations around Fukushima, the impact of which on the health of the populations concerned is said to be ultimately more severe than would have been the effect of the radioactive releases if these people had stayed home or returned more quickly.
13. The negative image surrounding food produced in Japan has impacted heavily the Japanese economy and local producers who still find it difficult to make a living from their production, which nevertheless fully complies with consumption standards.
14. Many political figures, anti-nuclear associations and the media contribute to the confusion between the victims of the natural disaster and the nuclear accident in Fukushima, instrumentalizing (intentionally or not) the memory of the victims and the drama of Japan and the Japanese.
15. Before the Fukushima nuclear accident, the Japanese Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency was dysfunctional and lacked independence from the government and energy companies.
16. The analysis and experience gained from this accident, which should not be underestimated and which could have been avoided, have made it possible to improve the level of safety of nuclear reactors, in Japan and around the world, with the active and immediate participation of the global nuclear industry.
17. Reactors at the Onagawa plant, closest to the epicentre, did not suffer major damage in the earthquake. Robust enough to withstand the tsunami, the plant then served as a refuge for local populations.

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