

TÜV Rheinland expands Japan activities 03-09-12 | Yokohama / Cologne



TÜV Rheinland, the international service provider for tests and certification, expands its activities in Japan. During the year after the catastrophe in Fukushima, management and

employees of TÜV Rheinland have initiated a large number of activities to support people and companies affected in Japan. For TÜV Rheinland, business is now back to normal conditions. The international service provider headquartered in Cologne, Germany, operates highly specialized test centers in Japan. Michael Jungnitsch, Chief Regional Officer Asia Pacific TÜV Rheinland: „We believe in Japan, we believe in the people of Japan and their strong economic powers. This is why we intend to strengthen our business commitment in Japan.” TÜV Rheinland has been active in Japan for more than thirty years and is currently investing in new laboratories. In 2012 for example, a million euro investment will be concluded for a highly modern testing facility in Osaka.

In Japan, TÜV Rheinland employs nearly 400 people, approximately 100 are from abroad. The regional centers for the Asia-Pacific area and one of the six global Full Service Global Technology Assessment Centers for Product Testing are located in Yokohama. There, TÜV Rheinland also operates a specialized test facility for the

solar industry. More laboratory centers are located in Fukuoka and Osaka.

Voluntary charity projects and fund raising

TÜV Rheinland and a large number of other companies were strongly affected by the impact of the catastrophe in March 2011. Energy supply was unstable, restricting operations in the laboratories significantly. The catastrophe's negative impacts on the Japanese economy also influenced TÜV Rheinland's activities.

Despite unsafe circumstances, employees of TÜV Rheinland have participated in many charity projects. Their voluntary work included cleanup work and fund raising among the 16,000 TÜV Rheinland employees world-wide.

The raised sum of 30,000 euros will be used for reconstruction work in the prefecture of Iwate. This prefecture in the north-east of Japan was hit hardest by the catastrophe. More than 4,600 people lost their lives; more than 2,000 are unaccounted for and missing. The money collected by TÜV Rheinland is used for the re-establishment of a day care facility for children in the community of Yamada which had been damaged by the huge tsunami. Also, the German state of Rhineland Palatia as the partner region of Iwate has supported the aforementioned project.

Nuclear protection projects and radiation measurements by TÜV Rheinland experts

TÜV Rheinland's radiation experts have performed technical support for the people and for the industry immediately after the incident. Regular radiation monitoring was carried out by using suitable equipment and experts

from Germany in the Tokyo and Yokohama regions. The collected scientific data was not only accessible staff: a daily monitoring including simultaneous validations of the situation was made available via internet platforms and partner organizations to all people interested. Today, radiation exposure in the greater Tokyo metropolitan region has reached normal levels again, with radiation on the same level as for example in the German Rhineland.

TÜV Rheinland has also carried out radiation measurements for the touristic center of the Nikko prefecture, situated between Tokyo and Fukushima, which is one of the most popular touristic regions in Japan. In October 2011, experts of TÜV Rheinland have evaluated the results of decontamination measures carried out in administrative facilities and schools in Minamisoma near the nuclear power station Fukushima. The results were reassuring for both the population and the authorities. The total assessment by TÜV Rheinland clearly showed that decontamination had been successful.

TÜV Rheinland has supported German and Japanese companies with radiation measurement and relevant expert advice. The basis for this auditing activity is a specific certification program that was developed by TÜV Rheinland for Japanese export companies. Furthermore, experts of TÜV Rheinland have organized a large number of events and have given relevant information on the current situation. They have performed risk assessments and explained regulations mandatory for companies.

Radiation control programs and radiation measurements provided by TÜV Rheinland continue to play an important role for the Japanese industry.

TÜV Rheinland also supports the expansion of renewable energies in Japan with suitable testing services, in

particular in the field of photovoltaic technology, with services to enhance industrial energy efficiency, and with the development of innovative technologies for alternative mobility concepts, especially safety of battery technology for electric vehicles.

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