

PHOTON FACTORY, IMSS, KEK

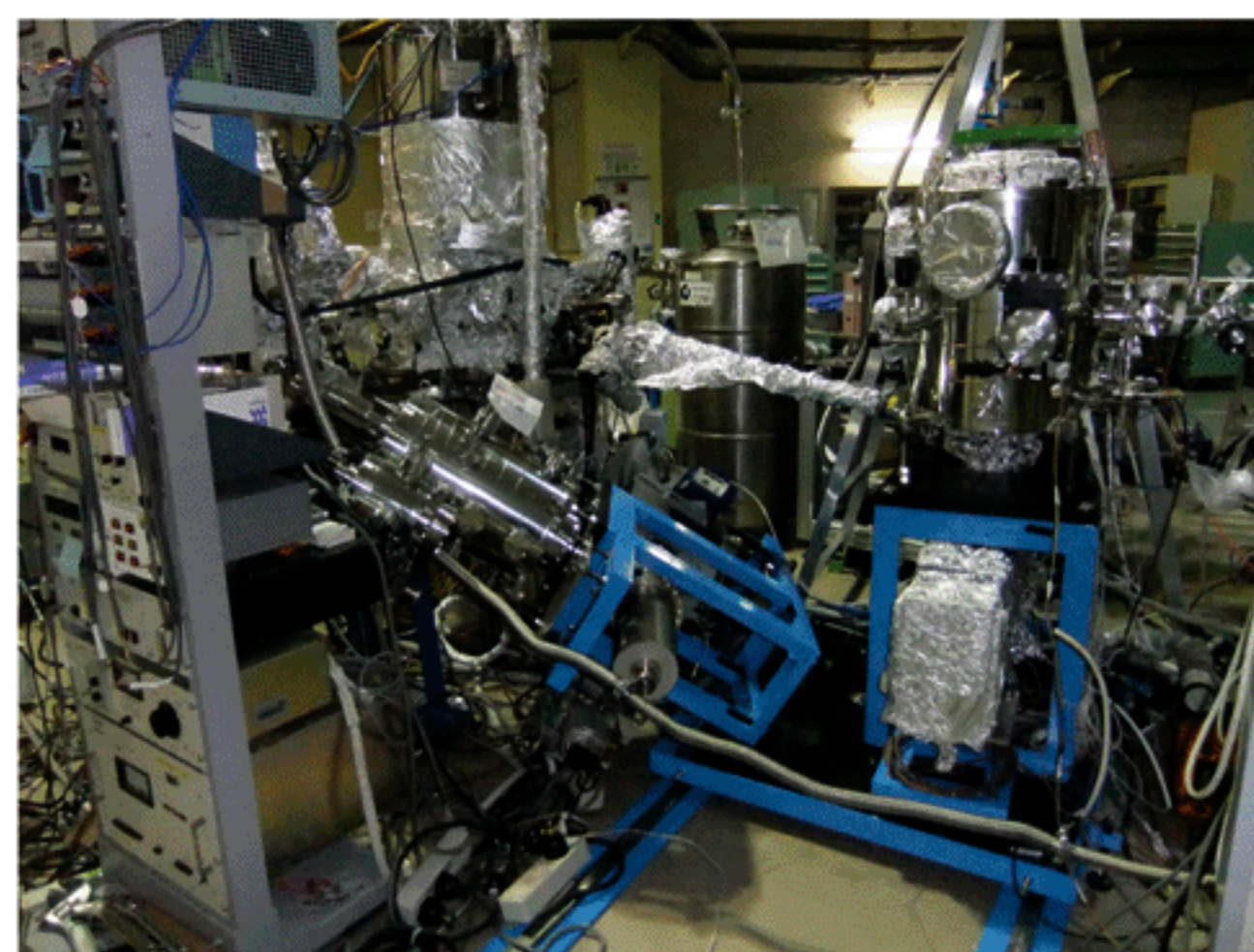


First of all we would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all of you who have sent us letters and emails of consolation and supports after the devastating earthquake and tsunami that hit the northeastern Japan on March 11th and the subsequent crisis in the Fukushima nuclear power plant, some 170 km away from Tsukuba. Here we report the damages, our present situation on the recovery process and future prospects. The magnitude 9.0 earthquake was truly a disaster of historical scale which we have never experienced in this area for many decades. Even though the scheduled beamtime had completed on the morning of that day and nobody was injured, the key infrastructures have suffered from numerous damages in the LINAC, the PF-Rings, and the beamlines including various equipments. One half of the PF-Ring was exposed to air. A number of components fallen or tipped over, and several pieces of equipment were seriously damaged. As a result, we had to cancel the user experiments scheduled for the April-July period.

Now we are in the process of recovering. During the first several weeks the restoration process was painfully slow due to the power restriction on the KEK campus; 2 MW as opposed to 70 MW with KEK-B operation. With no lights, no heating, we first proceeded with visual inspection of the damages followed by beamline by beamline check up of equipments. As the power restriction was eased slightly, the restoration process accelerated. The electron beam was successfully delivered to the 2.5 GeV PF-Ring on May 16th, and one and a half days later it reached 450 mA. The 6.5 GeV PF-AR is following the suit with about two weeks of delay. The beamlines are now being inspected intensively to confirm the performance of each beamline in terms of data quality as compared to the status prior to the earthquake with the cooperation of the PF users. We very much hope that we will resume the user program from this fall.

Once the earthquake was broadcasted internationally, we received so many kind letters of sympathy and special beamtimes have been very kindly offered from both domestic and overseas facilities such as SPring-8, SAGA-LS, HiSOR, UVSOR, RITS-SR, SSRF, ESRF, SSRL, MAX, NSRRC, APS, ALS, and AS, and some experiments have already been performed. We would like to express our greatest gratitude to all these facilities and the people concerned.

Finally, we once more express our sincere gratitude for all the support from our friends in this field. We promise that we will move forward from this unprecedented catastrophe and work with you again for the progress in the synchrotron radiation sciences.



Fallen Q-magnet in the LINAC (left) and the tipped-over vacuum chamber of BL16 (right).

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