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## UN WATCHDOG CHIEF VISITS FUKUSHIMA AS JAPAN RETURNS TO NUCLEAR POWER

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CNA (19 February 2025)

The United Nations nuclear watchdog chief visited Japan's stricken Fukushima plant on Wednesday (Feb 19), the day after Tokyo approved an energy plan that marks a return to nuclear power to meet growing demand for AI.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is monitoring Japan's efforts to decommission the Fukushima Daiichi plant after a 2011 earthquake-triggered tsunami killed 18,000 people and set off the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl.

As IAEA head Rafael Grossi arrived in Japan on Tuesday, the cabinet adopted a plan to increase reliance on nuclear power to help meet growing energy demand from artificial intelligence and microchip factories.

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