

Japan's Nuclear Energy and its International Cooperation¹

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a pleasure for me to share with you a short summary of Japan's program and actions to cooperate with Member States in introducing nuclear power.

In Japan, the first commercial nuclear power station started its operation in 1965, 10 years after the establishment of the AEC and currently 10 electric power companies are operating 54 LWRs, which consist of 30 BWRs and 24 PWR and supply about 30% of electricity. 2 units are under construction and 12 units are in preparation for licensing review.

As for waste management, one large scale commercial low-level waste disposal facility has been in operation for more than 10 years.

These power plants have been supplied by three nuclear power plant suppliers (Toshiba, Hitachi, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries), which have localized and improved the imported LWR technology in the process of adding capacity continuously, jointly with constructors and diverse enterprises that supply processed materials, electrical components and mechanical components. They are currently major suppliers of ABWR and APWR in the world.

It should be mentioned also that Japanese manufacturers and electric utilities have nurtured the capability to complete NPP construction on time and within budget, satisfying stringent quality requirement and safety requirement that reflects severe natural environment such as frequent visits of typhoon, tsunami and earthquakes.

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In the case of earthquakes, we have learned recently the importance and effectiveness of the use of so-called fault model in the evaluation of seismic motion due to nearby fault in particular.

In order to facilitate mutual learning of these finding among member countries, Japanese government proposed the IAEA to establish international seismic safety center, which was accepted by the Agency with your kind support.

It should be also mentioned that due to strong pressure to make everything in the nuclear facilities transparent and accountable to the public, the operators in Japan have cultivated an excellent organizational culture to value quality, a sense of security, cleanliness of workplaces and visualization.

AECJ has recommended government and industry recently that, with a view to contributing to shape international environment for safe, secure, safeguarded and sustainable nuclear energy use in the world, it is important for Japan as a group to share with international community such kind of capability, experiences, lessons learned and background knowledge of these characteristics and support countries that are starting or to start nuclear power programme to do so in an effective and efficient ways.

In response, JAIF, an association of Japanese nuclear industries has established JICC as a one-stop interface with potential customer countries on the cooperative activities to support capacity building and human resource development for the introduction of nuclear power in cooperation with government and related organization such as JAEA, JETRO and JICA.

Industry itself is also preparing to start a new firm, named as International Nuclear Energy Development Corporation of Japan (JINED), for joint undertaking of service activity of recommending solutions to the need of countries that want to introduce nuclear power, prior to offering a proposal.

Therefore, I can say that Japan can now provide new comer countries with comprehensive service including those for financing, human resource development, design, construction and operation of nuclear power plant through these integrated arrangements for cooperation, including the IAEA as a key partner.

Before closing, I would like to share with you the important role we should expect the IAEA to play. As you know, the IAEA have nurtured excellent capability as a guardian for safe, secure, safeguarded and sustainable utilization of nuclear power, including reliable codes and standards and various review mission systems based on them in which what we world civil nuclear community have seriously learned in our youth have been enriched.

I believe it most effective and efficient way for any country in the world to make the best use these precious product and activity to enjoy safe, secure, safeguarded and sustainable use of nuclear energy. It should be recommended by you not only for themselves but also for the world and global nuclear community in particular.

Thank you