

Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia

Opening Remarks

Good morning, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you indeed for attending the 16th FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting. On behalf of the Japanese government, I would like to say a few words welcoming all of our distinguished participants from the Asian and Pacific countries and our guest from the OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it has been 15 years since the FNCA was established as a framework with the goal of enhancing cooperation among the twelve (12) Asian-Pacific countries for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and socio-economic development.

Under this noble aim, various projects, in the areas of medical care, industry, and environment, have been demonstrating solid achievements and have been actually contributing to the sustainable development and welfare of the countries in the region.

We should warmly congratulate all relevant parties involved in delivering these splendid and outstanding outcomes.

In the area of the infrastructural development of nuclear energy, the FNCA Study Panel has been contributing to the achievement of a highest level of nuclear safety in the region by actively sharing information and experiences. This subject is critically important in this region when we consider the scale of economy and electricity demand that is growing faster than in any other part of the world.

In this regard, Japan is willing to cooperate with other member countries by sharing the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident, and discussing how we can continuously develop safer nuclear regimes in the Asian-Pacific region.

While recognizing the fact that not all members are using nuclear energy for power generation today, nuclear safety is a regional interest, and because any country may wish to choose it as an energy source in the future, one can prepare for that from today.

Considering the development of the Asian-Pacific economy during the past 15 years and the diversity of needs toward nuclear power, Japan has proposed to invite the OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency to this meeting. It was supported by member countries and Director General, Mr. Magwood has generously accepted the invitation.

I am certain that the participation by the NEA will give another impetus to the FNCA activities through the sharing of knowledge and experiences of both organizations. Using this opportunity, I would like to welcome Mr. Magwood and express my best wishes for the successful collaboration between the NEA and the FNCA.

During the preparatory discussion for today's meeting, the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) proposed to discuss the two topics: "New activities related to climate change and the role of nuclear technology" , and "Reform of the FNCA." The latter was proposed at the Ministerial Meeting last year.

As a result of today' s discussion, I hope to see concrete actions in these two areas, which may be articulated in the form of a Joint Communique to be finalized at the end of the meeting

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,
I sincerely hope and believe that the FNCA' s activities, in collaboration with the OECD/NEA, will enhance the contribution of nuclear energy to social and economic development of the member countries and to the welfare our citizens.

Thank you for your attention.