

The 11th Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) Ministerial Level Meeting

Greetings and Welcome Speech

(November 18, 2010)

(Introduction)

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation, on behalf of the Japanese government, to you all for attending the 11th Ministerial Level Meeting of Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia.

First of all, thank you very much for gathering from all over Asia for this 11th FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting. I would like to show my gratitude to the Chinese government for co-hosting this meeting with the Japanese government and for having welcomed all the participants to such a beautiful site with cordial preparations.

In particular, I am honored to inform you that the Republic of Kazakhstan and Mongolia have become official members of the FNCA. We warmly welcome their participation.

With their participation, cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear technology will be further enhanced in Asia. The Japanese government is very proud of being able to contribute to the development of and the cooperation among Asian countries.

It is also a benefit and a pleasure for all member countries that the knowledge and experience on the peaceful use of nuclear technology that the Republic of Kazakhstan and Mongolia have accumulated will further enrich the information that we can share.

(Circumstances about Nuclear Energy)

As you all know, moves to promote nuclear power generation have gained momentum in recent years from the viewpoint of coping with the problems of expanding energy demand and global warming. In particular, such moves are notable in Asia. Japan, China, and South Korea have already constructed and have been operating nuclear power plants, satisfying a part of their domestic power demand. It is extremely important to integrate strong interest in the introduction of nuclear power generation with our knowledge and experience, and Asian countries should work together to develop infrastructure for nuclear power generation.

The Japanese government aims to further strengthen cooperation with other Asian countries and we are greatly honored that Japan's technology and knowledge can be utilized for developing their use of nuclear energy via this forum.

(Efforts by the FNCA)

It has been more than ten years since the FNCA was established in April 2000 and started its activities. Under the principal concept of "aiming at contributing to socio-economic development through active regional partnerships in the peaceful and safe utilization of nuclear technology," the FNCA has actively promoted cooperative activities in the fields of agriculture, medical care, and industry and has made numerous achievements. We will continue working to promote end-users' utilization of such achievements obtained through past projects concerning the use of radiation and radioisotopes, including radiation breeding, biofertilizer, and cancer therapy protocol.

In 2004, the FNCA also started holding panel meetings concerning nuclear power generation in order to provide opportunities for positive discussions about the role of nuclear energy for the sustainable development of Asia.

The panel is now in its third phase. Panel meetings with the theme "Approaches toward Infrastructure Development for Nuclear Power" have been scheduled for three years since last year and discussions have been held on such issues as human resource development for nuclear power generation, the nuclear fuel cycle, and the treatment of radioactive waste.

In response to Asian countries' strong interest in the introduction of nuclear power generation, the Japanese government has offered our experience and knowledge on the development of nuclear infrastructure and our advanced safety technology. At the Nuclear Security Summit held in April 2010, the Japanese government announced the establishment of the "Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Security" and is now making preparations for it. Through the activities of this Center, the Japanese government, in cooperation with the IAEA, will contribute to needs such as human resource development so as to strengthen nuclear security, mainly in Asian countries.

(Closing Remarks)

As the use of nuclear energy is expected to expand in Asia, the role of the FNCA will become more significant. With the momentum to introduce nuclear power generation further building, it is important for each of us to declare to the international community that nuclear power generation is very effective for realizing a sustainable low-carbon society and to continue working to have nuclear power generation integrated into International Carbon Market Mechanisms. Furthermore, we need to discuss means to make the FNCA activities more effective and efficient through enhancing collaboration with the IAEA and other international organizations.

I hope that we share such awareness and that today's ministerial level meeting will be fruitful enough to contribute to the further development of the FNCA through active discussions. I also hope that each member country's efforts in the field of nuclear energy will be enhanced through the

achievements of the FNCA and will contribute to socio-economic development and the welfare of the people of the country. Lastly, I again extend my cordial welcome to the participation of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

Thank you for listening.