

Welcoming Remark by Mr. Goshi HOSONO, Minister of State for the Nuclear Power Policy and Administration, Cabinet Office of Japan

Your excellency, honorable guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is my privilege to open the 12th Ministerial Level Meeting for Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia. Representing host organization, I would like to express a few words.

First of all, thank you very much for participating in the 12th FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting. I would like to also use this opportunity to express of sympathy to the Kingdom of Thailand for the devastations caused by the floods in July and onwards.

Concerning devastations caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami at March 11 and adding to that, accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station of TEPCO, we have been extended so many supports from many different countries, especially from Asia. Thank you very much for those supports.

The entire nation of Japan including the onsite workers is putting at most efforts in order to restore the situation and now the plant is in stable state. In this afternoon, I believe that we will be able to report the cold shutdown status of the plant. So within the site, we believe that the situation is somewhat steady, and from now on, we have to implement measures to restore the environment of the off-site areas. The government is ready to put in the necessary efforts and we will conduct decontamination activities as well as decommissioning activities in the mid-to-long term.

In order to improve living standards of the people, it is essential to have right energy resources. There are many countries that are intending to make use of nuclear energy and radiation for that purpose. The accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station reminds us of the importance of the measure for nuclear safety. Based on the lessons learned from the accident we will set up the new nuclear safety and security agency and we are specifically looking into the preventive measures for similar occurrence. In order for nuclear energy to exert its potential to improve welfare of mankind, we believe that safety is the most important as the precondition.

FNCA is the framework of mutual support for the countries that have already or wish to utilize nuclear energy and radiation to improve welfare of the people.

Under this framework, 10 years have passed, and we have been able to deepen our cooperation in the areas such as industrial application of nuclear energy. Specifically vigorous cooperation has been carried out in radiation utilization in agriculture and

medical areas, radiation safety, research reactors, and human resources development (HRD) and we have been able to achieve remarkable outcomes at FNCA. We just not only focus on technical cooperation but also we are looking into development of necessary infrastructure including safety culture, public information, and HRD.

In this Ministerial Level Meeting, we hope to see further enhancement of improvement of the activities that we are already engaged in and I believe that it will be necessary that make use of close linkage with international organizations including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In the Ministerial Level Meeting, we planned the optional tour to Fukushima tomorrow and you will be able to see for yourself the activities of remediation, devastation caused by Earthquake and Tsunami, and the situation of reconstruction in Fukushima prefecture and hopefully the observation will lead to accurate understanding of the situation.

We recognize that the utilization of nuclear energy will expand not just in Asia, but around the world. We need to make sure that the necessary infrastructures and enhancing of safety are in place. For assuring that, it is effective to share information and have collaboration among countries though operators have primary responsibility. If there are any accidents, it is also essential to share information with the neighboring countries and take collaborative emergency measures. I believe that FNCA could play even more important role from this perspective. Hopefully the activities of FNCA member countries will make even more contribution into the improvement of socio-economic development and the welfare of people.

Thank you very much for your attention.