

Statement: Nuclear Test by North Korea

May 26, 2009

Japan Atomic Energy Commission

1. Although global expectation on nuclear disarmament has been aroused more than ever, North Korea announced yesterday (on May 25) that it had conducted a nuclear test. This is the most deplorable act that disregards such international expectation and the UN resolution “Renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons” (December 2008, the 63rd UN General Assembly), which was supported by an overwhelming majority of member states, and also ignores the desire of the Japanese people who seek the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.
2. The Japan Atomic Energy Commission has consistently urged that the progress of nuclear disarmament and the maintenance and strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime is absolutely imperative for the promotion of research, development and utilization of nuclear energy that aim for the improvement of welfare of human society and the living standards of the people. The Commission, therefore, has supported and played a role in the approaches of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other organizations to maintain and strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.
3. North Korea’s recent nuclear test constitutes a severe blow to the international community’s earnest efforts for nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and is absolutely unacceptable. The Commission expects that the international community will never be daunted but will steadily promote its efforts for nuclear disarmament and strongly urges North Korea to immediately abandon its nuclear development program and promptly return to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and strictly limit its nuclear activities to peaceful purposes thereunder.