

STATEMENT ON INITIATION OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR JAPAN-INDIA COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

Japan Atomic Energy Commission

June 29, 2010

Given the stronger and deeper relationship between India and Japan, to promote nuclear energy cooperation between India and Japan may have a great significance for both countries: it will make it possible for Japan to cooperate with India, of which population crossed the one billion mark, to expand the use of nuclear energy as a low-carbon energy in cooperation with the global community that is combating global warming.

The latest JAEC Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy (2005) clearly stipulates, however, the basic conditions for nuclear cooperation with foreign countries. In particular, when such cooperation involves transfer of nuclear components and technologies, it says that the government needs to confirm political stability in a recipient country, compliance with regulations and guidelines under the international non-proliferation regime, conditions of establishing regimes for assuring nuclear safety, nuclear security, and nuclear nonproliferation and to make sure that such cooperation is done in a way to be well accepted by both outside and inside Japan. In this respect, when Japan starts negotiation with India for bilateral nuclear cooperation, the government should consider implications of such cooperation for the current international non-proliferation regime very carefully, since India is not a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and it is a de-facto nuclear weapon country.

Therefore, JAEC believes that the government should make sure that the following conditions are met as minimum conditions for nuclear cooperation with India. First, India has implemented its “commitments and actions” clarified as a condition to accept the decision to treat India as an exception of the Nuclear Suppliers’ Group (NSG) export control rule (see the attached note). Furthermore, India must be willing to take responsible actions to maintain and strengthen the international non-proliferation regime as well as to continue to execute its “commitments and actions.”

In addition, we expect that the government should agree with India in the negotiation that both countries will make joint efforts to promote such schemes, under which the international community will enjoy the benefits of nuclear science and technology while rigorously maintaining three basic conditions (safety, non-proliferation, and nuclear security). Moreover, reflecting Japanese citizens’

strong desire for abolishment of nuclear weapons, both countries must have the strong intention to make steady progress in nuclear disarmament creatively and realistically through collaboration with the international community.

Note: Decision on Treating India as an Exemption at NSG

The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), of which Japan is a member, is an important element of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. In 2008, the NSG decided that nuclear exports to India are allowed as an exemption based on the “commitments and actions” that India has taken voluntarily; they include a) separate civilian nuclear facilities and a safeguards agreement with the IAEA on such facilities, b) a commitment to sign and adhere to an Additional Protocol with respect to India’s civil nuclear facilities, c) refraining from transfer of enrichment and reprocessing technologies to states that do not have them, d) continuing its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing and its readiness to work with others toward the conclusion of a multilateral Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty. The NSG concluded that such a decision would facilitate India’s responsible actions and positive involvements in international efforts to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Based on the results of negotiations at the NSG, the Japanese government decided to join this decision at the last moment after thorough consideration of all factors. At the NSG meeting, then, the Japanese government clarified its position that if India stopped its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing, the NSG should discontinue its treatment of India as an exemption and that all NSG members should stop their respective nuclear cooperation with India under such occasion.