

## **Statement: The Reported Nuclear Test by North Korea**

October 10, 2006

Japan Atomic Energy Commission

1. North Korea reported yesterday that it had conducted a nuclear test, defying the call by Japan and other countries that it should exercise utmost restraint. This nuclear test is the most deplorable act that disregards the earnest efforts of the international community to make North Korea abandon it and ignores the desire of the Japanese people who seek the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons.
2. As in its statement of regret regarding the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan (May 1998), the Japan Atomic Energy Commission has consistently recognized and urged that an international nuclear non-proliferation regime is absolutely imperative to promote research, development and utilization of nuclear energy that aim for the improvement of welfare of human society and the living standards of all nations. The Commission, therefore, has supported and played a role in the promotion of the efforts of the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and others to maintain and strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.
3. The nuclear test by North Korea is absolutely unacceptable. It constitutes a serious threat to the peace and security of Japan as well as the entire East Asian region and international community, and the alleged nuclear test by North Korea gives a blow to the international community's nuclear non-proliferation efforts. The Commission strongly urges North Korea to immediately abandon its nuclear testing and nuclear development program and to promptly return to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.