

The Atomic Energy Commission Views on the Bill To Partially Amend the JAEA
Establishment Law for the Promotion of the ITER Project

March 6, 2007

The Atomic Energy Commission

1. Today, the Atomic Energy Commission received a report on the Cabinet decision to seek the Diet's approval of both 1) the Agreement to establish the International ITER Organization that will implement ITER fusion energy project, and 2) the Agreement between the government of Japan and the European Atomic Energy Community for the Joint Implementation of the Broader Approach Activities in the Field of Fusion Energy Research.

It was also reported that the Cabinet decided to submit to the Diet the Bill To Partially Amend the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) Establishment Law.

2. In 2005, the Commission decided on the Future Fusion Research and Development Strategy in the Framework of the Third Phase Basic Program of Fusion Research and Development. The Strategy proposes that further fusion research and development activities including technology development research construction and using an experimental fusion reactor, ITER, should be promoted to establish a technology base for the design and construction of the Tokamak prototype reactor for the early realization of nuclear fusion energy.

3. The Commission therefore recognizes it appropriate that a legal basis will be established, pending the decision of the Diet, for the JAEA, which has played a central function both scientifically and technologically in establishing ITER's technical basis, to contribute to the ITER project and Broader-Approach Activities as a national organization in the context of these Agreements.

4. Because the ITER project is a long-term scientific and technological project promoted by the ITER Organization that is administered by the ITER Council comprised of members from the seven parties, the project may face various problems to be solved using scientific and technological ingenuity. We expect that the JAEA will contribute toward solving such problems as in the past by promoting steadily and intensively the research and development activities depicted in the strategy decided by the AEC in 2005. The Commission will be briefed on the progress in timely manner, and give advice when needed and appropriate.