

津村大臣政務官 GNEP 第 3 回執行委員会会合 演説文

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Gratitude to the host country and the related parties

I am Keisuke Tsumura, Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet Office for Science and Technology Policy.

At the outset, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the United States as the chair country of this meeting for their hard work to prepare for the meeting and also to China, the host country, for their hospitality as well as their extremely helpful and well-organized support for us to attend this meeting.

It is a great pleasure to see that the third GNEP Executive Committee Meeting is held with the participation of 43 countries, showing a steady increase in the number of participating countries and partner countries.

2. Contribution of nuclear energy to combating against global warming and other issues

As you know, In Japan, the Democratic Party of Japan replaced the Liberal Democratic Party and took office when the Hatoyama administration was inaugurated in September. Although Japanese government has been putting high priority on the promotion for science and technology including peaceful uses of nuclear energy, in former cabinets, only a few members had a background in science and technology. However, in the Hatoyama cabinet, policy-makers with science and technology background have held key positions. Namely, Prime Minister Yukio HATOYAMA is the first Prime Minister with a Ph.D. in engineering in Japan. Deputy-Prime Minister Naoto KAN serves concurrently as Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy and He also has background in science and technology.

In Addition, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Tatsuo KAWABATA who is responsible for the promotion of Research and Development of Nuclear energy and Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi HIRANO majored in science and engineering in college. Under enough understanding characteristics of science and technology, Hatoyama Administration will promote science and technology policy. Although I do not have a background in science and technology, as a member of the new administration, I would like to talk about our stance toward the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

From the viewpoint of coping with expanding energy demand and global warming, the potential role of nuclear energy has come to attract the attention of the international community in recent years. We recognize that the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, including nuclear power generation gained momentum internationally.

As was declared at the 64th UN General Assembly, the Hatoyama administration has set an ambitious target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 25% by 2020, if compared to the 1990 level, on the premise that all major economies will participate. In this month, Deputy-Prime minister Naoto KAN proposed on “Green Innovation” as one of

the important measure to achieve the goal of the Hatoyama Initiative at the Science and Technology for the Society Forum(STS Forum) held in Kyoto. Under the concept of “Green Innovation”, Hatoyama administration will intensively promote the development of clean energy technologies such as biomass, solar photovoltaic power generation and others, and we will steadily promote nuclear power generation as an energy source which is free from CO2 emissions in the generating process, while ensuring nuclear safety. At the same time, we consider it indispensable to steadily promote international cooperation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

However, Hatoyama administration is not single-party administration, but has coalition with the People’s New Party and Social Democratic Party. Among these, the Social Democratic Party insists the negative stance for the uses of nuclear energy. While politely hearing various opinions among three parties and hearing people’s various opinions in Japan, Hatoyama administration will prudently and steadily contribute worldwide expansion of nuclear energy for peaceful purpose.

3. Global expansion of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and what we expect for the GNEP’s activities

In the peaceful uses of nuclear energy worldwide, we should give due consideration the three S’s, that is, Safety, Security and Non-proliferation/ Safeguards. It is also important to develop various infrastructures for the introduction of nuclear power generation, including the development of human resources and the establishment of a regulatory system. Japan expects that countries participating in the GNEP will properly observe the principles of the 3 S’s and utilize the framework of the GNEP to discuss measures to ensure the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in a manner beneficial for all participating countries. At present, discussions on this matter have been taking place at the Infrastructure Development Working Group of the GNEP. We believe that such activities will be fruitful for GNEP partners and observer countries.

Given the fact that an increasing number of countries have become interested in embarking on nuclear power programs, we think that ensuring a stable fuel supply will significantly contribute to the realization of both nuclear nonproliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Therefore, we expect that the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group of the GNEP will lead fruitful and constructive discussions.

4. Conclusion

It is extremely meaningful that so many countries have gathered to attend this GNEP meeting for the purpose of promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Japan hosted the Steering Group Meeting in April and has made contribution to the activities of the GNEP. In order to advance the prosperity of the international community through the peaceful uses of nuclear power, Japan would like to continue to cooperate closely with other countries so that the international Partnership will be further strengthened to bear fruit for partner countries and observer countries.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.