

Welcoming Remark by Mr. Shinkun HAKU, Senior Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office, Japan

(Introduction)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to open the 13th Ministerial Level Meeting for Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia. On behalf of the Japanese government, I would like to say a few words.

First of all, thank you for attending this 13th FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting. I would like to express my gratitude to the Indonesian government for co-hosting this meeting with the Japanese government and for your warm reception and cordial preparation.

(Circumstances about Nuclear Energy)

Having experienced the last year's accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station of TEPCO, Japan has been reviewing from scratch its national energy policy, building upon nation-wide discussions. As a result, the Energy and Environment Council of the Japanese Government has decided a new energy strategy, of which basic policy is to mobilize all possible policy resources to underpin a good balance between the shift toward green energy and economic growth, aiming at realizing a society not dependent on nuclear power in the 2030's, while constantly reviewing and reexamining policies as carefully assessing future outlook including the international situation regarding energy. In the meantime, the operation of nuclear power plants whose safety is assured will be restarted as an important power source.

Also in Asia, the region which achieves rapid economic growth, nuclear power generation is so important from the viewpoint of coping with ensuring stable supply of energy and dealing with addressing global warming that many countries in Asia will enlarge or introduce the utilization of it.

Japan will continue to ensure safety and security for peaceful uses of nuclear energy taking account of its relationship with the international community. It is the responsibility of Japan to contribute to strengthening nuclear safety worldwide by sharing with the world its experience and lessons derived from the nuclear accident of last year, and to offer its nuclear technologies of the highest standard in safety in the world to those countries which wish to utilize nuclear technologies of our country, taking into account their situations and will intention.

(Efforts by the FNCA)

I recognize that the leadership of the FNCA ministerial-level meeting has solved the problems with radiation technologies, which have unique characteristics, in the fields of agriculture and medical care, and has made sound achievements, planning and promoting many cooperation activities in the broad fields, for example radiation safety, research reactor, and human resource development for over a decade.

As for nuclear power generation, I appreciate that through the panel meeting the participating countries have shared their findings and interacted through experience on the common issues of human resource development, mutual understanding with people in the community, and have learned the knowledge of disasters such as earthquake and Tsunami, and the lessons of the Fukushima nuclear accident.

It is such an important role to improve nuclear power generation safety in Asia by sharing the lessons of the Fukushima nuclear accident with countries concerned, that Japan should make a maximum contribution to it because it directly went through it.

The FNCA is considered to be an important mechanism for Asian countries to resolve mid-and-long term issues related to the use of nuclear power. Therefore in this meeting, I'm looking forward to hearing your opinion about the FNCA's themes or structure of cooperation expected in the future from the point of view of mutual benefit.

(Closing Remarks)

Japan will continuously support the Asian growth by the research, development, and utilization of nuclear power technologies. I hope that the activities of the FNCA member countries will make nuclear activities more effective, which improve their socio-economic situations and the welfare of their people.

Thank you very much for your attention.