

Opening Remarks

FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting in Astana Kazakhstan on October 11, 2017

Good morning your excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Japanese government, I'd like to thank you all for making yourselves available for the 18th FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting.

Also, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Kanat Bozumbayev, Minister of Energy, to His Excellency Bakhytzhan Jaxaliyev, Vice-Minister of Energy, to Prof. Erlan Batyrbekov, Director General of the National Nuclear Center, and to the entire Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting this meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to reiterate that the FNCA was established with the objective to promote social and economic development through the peaceful and safe utilization of nuclear technology. Embracing these basic principles, we will never tolerate any attempt to challenge international non-proliferation and disarmament efforts toward assuring regional and world security.

The FNCA's activities, including technology, knowledge and information sharing, are proving to have a positive impact in various areas such as medicine, agriculture, and environmental protection. Besides such nuclear science applications, the FNCA has proactively addressed various challenges that are associated with nuclear power development. Stakeholder involvement and nuclear liability are two recent examples.

At this meeting, we are very much delighted to have an opportunity to have in-depth discussions related to the protection of the environment as the main topic for the Roundtable discussion.

The contributions achieved by all relevant parties of our Projects and Study Panel have been significant. Today, I am proud to announce that the very first

FNCA Awards will be presented during this meeting for their outstanding achievement. Congratulations to all the winning teams!

This year, the government of Japan published the Basic Policy of Nuclear Energy, which indicates long-term policy directions for nuclear energy use, and resumed the publication of the White Paper on Nuclear Energy. Japan will continue to work to gain public understanding and confidence on nuclear energy use while ensuring safety as a first and foremost condition.

Over the past six years, Japan has been actively working to enhance nuclear safety based on the lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident, including by fundamentally reviewing regulatory institutions. Japan will continue to share its experience from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident with the international community and contribute to enhancing nuclear safety worldwide.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I believe the benefits of nuclear technology are significant to us to fulfill our vision of sustainable development. As we go through global-scale environmental change, we are committed to leaving a better world to the next generation. We still have a long way to go, but I am confident that the FNCA's philosophy and activities will lead us to a successful future for all member countries.

Thank you.