

Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Romania for hosting the Executive Committee Meeting of the IFNEC here in Sinaia.

Japan has faced a drastic change in its circumstances with regard to energy due to the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident at the TEPCO Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station. Japan decided the new Strategic Energy Plan last year as a starting point for reviewing and rebuilding our energy strategy from the scratch.

Following this plan, the Government of Japan developed the “Long-term Energy Supply and Demand Outlook” in July. This Outlook has three objectives;

- First, Japan intends to increase energy self-sufficiency rate to around 25%. Japan’s energy self-sufficiency dropped from 20% to 6% after the Fukushima accident. This is the second lowest among 34 OECD countries.
- Second objective is to reduce current high electricity cost. This reflects increased fuel cost after Fukushima accident and increased subsidy to renewal energy.
- Third objective is to reduce GHG to the level that is comparable to the targets of European countries and US. In July Japan has announced its reduction target, which is to achieve 26% reduction compared to FY2013 by FY2030.

In this outlook, it is indicated that proportion of nuclear power in the total electricity generation of Japan will be 20 to 22 percent in 2030. Nuclear power accounted for roughly 30 percent of the electricity before the Fukushima accident.

Two reactors in Sendai of Kyushu Island resumed operation in September and this month respectively. They have marked Japan’s return to nuclear energy production. They have restarted after the tightened safety regulations following the Fukushima accident. There are three more reactors that have passed the safety conformity check and there are 20 reactors that are in the process of the safety conformity check.

Mr. Chairman,

IFNEC has been an excellent forum for mutual cooperation of those countries who have established nuclear programs and those who are embarking on nuclear programs. Japan sincerely hopes that IFNEC will continue to be so by addressing true need of the member countries and by providing tangible output to serve such need. Japan reassures its support to IFNEC.

Thank you for your kind attention.