

Keynote Speech by Mr. Tanahashi  
Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy  
AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE FIFTH FORUM  
FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION IN ASIA (FNCA)  
HANOI, VIET NAM, 1 DECEMBER 2004

(Introduction)

Ministers, delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor to give the opening remarks, at the very outset of the ministerial meeting of the Fifth Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA), on behalf of the organizing bodies and as the minister of Japan in charge of science and technology policy including peaceful use of nuclear energy.

It is also my pleasure to welcome delegates from Australia, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

My deepest gratitude also goes to the Government of Viet-Nam for co-organizing this meeting together with us and hosting it in this beautiful city of Hanoi.

### (Fundamental Objective of FNCA)

Asia's economies are developing at the highest rate in the world. I recognize that the FNCA framework, particularly the ministerial level meeting of such region, is a very effective mechanism to facilitate the promotion of socio-economic development of the region by means of proactive regional partnership in the field of nuclear energy.

I believe that peaceful use of nuclear energy can contribute to achieve the well-being and the improvement of quality of life as well as the development of science and technologies.

### (Radiation Utilization)

In the field of radiation utilization, a number of achievements have been carried out under the FNCA cooperation projects such as agricultural and medical applications. They are benefiting to enrich daily lives in the region. I am looking forward to expanding utilization of radiation under the collaboration of relevant countries.

### (Utilization of Nuclear Energy)

Concerning energy utilization, the situations differ among FNCA countries. However, it is my belief that the importance of nuclear power is increasing worldwide in order to solve global warming. In addition, the energy security is recognized as indispensable more widely than ever in order to keep sustainable

development in the Asian region. A new three-year panel on the “Role of Nuclear Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia” has been initiated this year under the framework of FNCA. The Panel should continue in-depth consideration on the role of nuclear power and on the cooperation among FNCA member countries.

(Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy and Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)

Non-proliferation regime of nuclear weapons is of critical importance in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. As the only nation, who experienced atomic bombs, Japan adheres to the “Three non-nuclear principles,” which are: “No possession, No manufacturing, and No entry of nuclear weapons.” For the purpose of limiting the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, we have enacted the Atomic Energy Basic Law and we fully comply with all relevant international norms based on the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. As a result of the full verification program under the comprehensive safeguards agreement as well as its Additional Protocol, a conclusion was drawn by the IAEA in June this year that there is no indication of diversion of nuclear material or of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Japan. For effective and practical strengthening of the non-proliferation regime, I call for early conclusion of the Additional Protocol of the IAEA safeguards agreement to those

countries which have not yet done so.

(Nuclear Safety)

Nuclear safety is the utmost prerequisite for the use of nuclear energy. Japan is in close collaboration with FNCA countries in this field in various cooperation regimes. We will further strengthen these collaborations as well as commit ourselves with continued efforts in the domestic programs to assure nuclear safety.

(Security)

The need of intensifying the safety control of radioactive sources is being internationally stressed. This is because radioactive sources could be illicitly used as a means of terrorist attacks. IAEA adopted at its General Conference in September 2003 the “Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources.” Each country is requested to comply with this code of conduct for preventing the loss of radioactive sources or the terrorists’ abuse of them for the so-called “dirty bombs.” Japan has been strongly endorsing this code of conduct and expects every member country of FNCA to support it and fully observe the code.

(The ITER Project)

Concerning the nuclear fusion, which is expected to be the

ultimate source of energy for humankind, the international project of ITER is being envisaged. Japan is proposing the site of Rokkasho in Aomori Prefecture for installing the ITER facilities. We think that such most advanced international project should be invited in our Asian region.

(Political Dialogues)

Human resources are the indispensable ingredients of continued utilization of nuclear energy in each member country. This issue should be appropriate to be discussed among FNCA countries. I look forward to your fruitful discussions to work out the effective cooperation mechanism to this end.

At the fifth anniversary of FNCA, we should review outcomes of FNCA activities and should find out the appropriate future direction of FNCA. Coordinator Dr. Machi will follow me in presenting the overview of the past achievements of FNCA activities. I hope all of you will have creative discussions for the future based upon these achievements made so far.

If you allow me to express my own thoughts, high level political dialogues on common issues among ministers of FNCA member countries are the productive instrument to pave the way to collaborate for the common issues among us, such as “role of nuclear energy for the sustainable development”; “human resources”; “nuclear safety”; “nuclear science and technologies”; or “collaboration between FNCA and other relevant

organizations”.

(Conclusion)

Finally, let me express my sincere hope that you will have fruitful discussions at this ministerial meeting. And we should consolidate better collaboration and cooperation between member countries for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Thank you very much for your attention.