

Message to 8th Ministerial Meeting of Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)

I heartily welcome you in participating in the eighth ministerial meeting of the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA).

As the partnership for promoting peaceful, safe use of nuclear technologies for social and economic development, the FNCA has proceeded with cooperation mainly in utilization of radiation, and has made many achievements. I would like to respect the participating countries' positive contributions to FNCA activities.

As you well know, the Asian region has become the center of the world's economic development. Secure energy supply and global environment conservation efforts are important common challenges throughout the region. Nuclear energy utilization can contribute to both efforts and must be considered more seriously than ever before.

The Singapore Declaration adopted at the recent third East Asian Summit (EAS), in which I participated, put forward an agreement to cooperate for the development and use of civilian nuclear power. The FNCA ministerial meeting will adopt a joint communiqué on the peaceful use of nuclear energy for sustainable development. I hope it will advance the agreement of EAS. I welcome the recognition of nuclear energy as an effective measure against global warming and the cooperation to promote it in Asia in safe, secure and proliferation-resistant manner. Japan is willing to take part in the cooperation.

I hope for the FNCA ministerial meeting to be fruitful and that achievements at this meeting will contribute to the Asian region's development, secure energy supply and global environmental conservation of the world.

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Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister, Japan