

Opening Address by Minister Kishida at the Ministerial Meeting (8th FNCA Ministerial Meeting: December 18, 2007)

【Welcoming address】

Good morning distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

Upon opening the 8th FNCA ministerial meeting, I will give an opening address as the minister of state for nuclear policy of host country.

First of all, we are honored to have representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam join the meeting.

We heard that a devastating cyclone hit Bangladesh last month and caused extremely significant damages. We would like to offer our deepest sympathy to the representatives from Bangladesh and the victims of the disaster.

【How we position nuclear energy from the viewpoint of addressing global warming and securing stable energy supply: World's perception and activities of the FNCA】

Global warming and securing stable energy supply has now come to be recognized as a global issue.

The FNCA has long been providing cooperation, mainly for the utilization of radiation, but it has come to expand its activities in recent years to discuss cooperation in the field of nuclear power generation considering this global issue.

Massive capital and highly-advanced technologies are required for

developing and securely handling nuclear energy. Furthermore, people have had concerns about the safety of nuclear energy and nuclear proliferation problem. For these reasons, nuclear energy has so far been utilized only in limited countries. Therefore, the significance of nuclear energy in addressing global warming has not yet become a world consensus.

In this situation, the IEA Energy Outlook 2007 and the IPCC 4th Assessment Report released this year position nuclear power as one of the measures to resolve the issues of global warming and stable energy supply.

It is very meaningful that international organizations outside the nuclear energy field have come to globally publicize the significance of nuclear power generation for the purpose of preventing or reducing global warming from a scientific point of view.

In order to reflect such scientific knowledge in state policies, the Singapore Declaration at the recent third East Asian Summit put forward an agreement to “cooperate for the development and use of civilian nuclear power.”

In order to advance this Singapore Declaration, the FNCA ministerial meeting is now working on compiling a joint communiqué for promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy toward sustainable development. I believe this effort is an epoch-making initiative leading not only member countries but also the whole world.

【Significance of FNCA activities】

Now that expanded utilization of nuclear power generation has come to be anticipated in Asia, with such significant changes in consciousness observed

globally, it is necessary to discuss issues of ensuring non-proliferation, nuclear security, and nuclear safety seriously and to cooperate with each other to achieve the common goal.

The FNCA aims to promote peaceful and safe use of nuclear technologies to enhance social and economic development through positive partnership between member countries. We believe that such cooperation can significantly assist respective member countries in introducing or expanding peaceful and safe use of nuclear power generation independently under their own responsibility.

The Japanese government will also offer cooperation so that countries which are going to initiate nuclear power generation can fully utilize Japan's experience and knowledge.

In addition to nuclear power generation, utilization of radiation is extremely important as the core field of FNCA cooperation activities. A number of research results have been obtained in such fields as agricultural application and medical application. The FNCA will further promote cooperation among relevant countries in these fields to develop radiation utilization technologies, hoping that a larger number of persons can receive benefits of utilizing radiation.

【Closing】

We are going to discuss cooperation in the field of nuclear power generation and utilization of radiation in today's FNCA ministerial meeting. At the last session, we will sign a joint communiqué and have a joint press conference. We hope that participants can have fruitful discussions and

share experience to make the cooperation under the FNCA even more productive.

Activities of the FNCA will become more and more important while the expansion of nuclear utilization is expected in Asian countries. The Japanese government is willing to make further efforts to disseminate the achievements of FNCA activities including today's scheduled joint communiqué to the international society so as to reflect them in the future discussions on global energy issues and global environmental issues.

Last of all, I hope that FNCA member countries' activities in the nuclear field based on FNCA achievements will contribute to the development of the respective countries' social economy and the people's welfare.

Thank you.