

Congratulatory Remarks of Dr. Shunsuke Kondo, Chairman of Japan Atomic Energy Commission, in the Opening Session of the IAEA's Regional Workshop on Managing Nuclear Knowledge held in Tokyo on October 22, 2007

Good morning, Professor Aizawa, President of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank Professor Aritomi for warm introduction and for all the good work of you and the Tokyo Institute of Technology to sponsor this IAEA's Asian Regional Workshop on Managing Nuclear Knowledge.

I also thank Japan Atomic Energy Agency, Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization and Japan Atomic Industrial Forum to host this event on such an important topic.

Last but not-least, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency for holding this workshop in Japan as well as for your service to the entire world through dedicated work in all areas of the nuclear energy utilization, in the security and safeguards of nuclear materials and technology, and in their tireless efforts to promote nuclear non-proliferation.

As knowledge is a fundamental resource for any organization to make factually decisions and stimulating innovation, it is important to manage it effectively and efficiently, toward accomplishing goals of the organization. In these days, therefore, knowledge management programs are droved by various considerations, including;

- a) Managing preservation and succession of expertise and know-how possessed by key individuals in an organization for the future,
- b) Managing the proliferation of data and information through visualization or MIERUKA in complex business environments to allow people to access useful and relevant knowledge resources and best practices rapidly, and
- c) Benefiting from network learning, as high productivity and motivation of people in an organization can be expected when the number of connections between people inside and outside of the organization is maintained at a high level under proper re-wiring strategy and the high quality and diversity of information shared are assured.

The Japan Atomic Energy Commission has shared the interest of the IAEA in nuclear knowledge management and has reflected our concern for knowledge management in the strategy for the promotion of research, development and utilization of nuclear energy in Japan, which strategy was developed, following the principles of strictly limiting them only to peaceful purposes, assuring their safety and security, making the results transparent and promoting international cooperation and contribution, to secure energy resources for the future, promote science and industries, and thereby contribute to the improvement of both the welfare of human society and the living standard of the people.

Nuclear power is safe, clean, and reliable. Furthermore, for foreseeable future, it is one of few mature emission-free technologies that can supply the power the world will need to meet the projected increase in demand for electricity over a long period.

Recognizing this fact, the Japan Atomic Energy Commission has proposed the Government and industries to promote the use of nuclear energy so as to make the share of nuclear power in electricity generation after the year 2030 greater than the current level of 30 to 40 %.

The Commission believes it a key for pursuing this objective to incessantly secure the public understanding of nuclear energy and is asking the Government and industries to do their best to cultivate the public interest in the relationship between nuclear energy and society and in learning thereof in daily life of the people.

The Commission believes it also crucial in this endeavor to secure excellent human resources continuously. We are therefore encouraging universities to provide both basic nuclear education concerning energy and radiation in general education and promote the professional education in the area of nuclear energy that covers diverse engineering and science basics. We are expecting nuclear engineering courses in universities to provide education to foster professionals who can actively participate in international activities and organizations as the world is flat and will become more connected in the near future.

I would like to highly appreciate in this regard the efforts of the members of Tokyo Institute of Technology who are working for the research laboratory for nuclear reactors and for the 21st Century Center of Excellence Program entitled Innovative Nuclear Energy Systems for Sustainable Development of the World.

I sincerely hope that the exchange of views in this workshop will contribute to the improvement of nuclear knowledge management for the promotion of nuclear energy and the improvement of knowledge creation and inheritance processes, in particular, in organizations for nuclear education, research and development, manufacturing and operation of nuclear facilities, for the benefit of the IAEA member states and the IAEA secretariat working for them

Thank you for your attention.