

Opening Remarks at the Second GNEP Ministerial Meeting:

Speech by H.E. Mr. Yukiya Amano,

Permanent Representative of Japan to the International Organizations in Vienna (Draft)

(September 16, 2007, Vienna)

Mr. Secretary,

Distinguished Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to be here today to attend the GNEP Ministerial Meeting in Vienna, which follows the previous meeting held in Washington D.C. in May. On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my gratitude to Secretary Bodman for his leadership and to his team for their efforts in organizing this meeting. Today's meeting, where Partners have gathered to sign the GNEP Statement of Principles, will be a significant step forward in establishing a cooperative framework for GNEP. I am delighted to participate in the discussions on how this framework for future cooperation should develop, and sincerely hope that the discussions will produce a successful outcome.

(Movements toward Nuclear Renaissance)

At present, nuclear energy and its utilization is gaining a momentum from the perspective of ensuring stable energy supply and combating global warming.

The global energy consumption is expected to increase rapidly and it will pose serious threats to energy security. We should expeditiously take effective measures to tackle this issue. Just to give you an example, a number of Asian countries have expressed high hopes for introducing nuclear power generation as a new energy source, because a sharp increase in energy consumption is foreseen in the Asian region.

Tackling global warming is a matter of urgency. At the Heiligendamm Summit, the G8 countries reached an agreement to seriously consider at least halving emissions of global greenhouse gases by 2050. I would like to emphasize that expanding the utilization of nuclear energy should be considered as one of the possible measures to

address the global warming issue.

I also would like to emphasize that it is essential to ensure nuclear safety as well as to prevent nuclear proliferation and terrorist attacks, when promoting the utilization of nuclear energy,

(Japan's Nuclear Policy)

Since 1955, Japan has promoted the utilization of nuclear energy in order to contribute to improving the welfare of its society and the living standard of its people. In doing so, research, development and utilization of nuclear science and engineering has been strictly limited only to peaceful purposes. In the field of nuclear non-proliferation, Japan has made active efforts such as expeditiously concluding the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Safeguards Agreement.

Japan now has 55 nuclear power plants, which produce approximately 30% of the total power supply. The Tokai Reprocessing Plant has been in operation for more than twenty years, and the Rokkasho Reprocessing Plant is currently undergoing active tests. We also have been engaged in research projects for the development of the next-generation light water reactors and fast breeder reactors including the "Monju" prototype reactor.

On July 16, 2007, the Niigataken Chuetsu-oki earthquake occurred. The Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant, located adjacent to the seismic center, was hit by a big tremor. Nevertheless, all reactors in operation were automatically shut down safely, as designed. They did not inflict a negative impact on the surrounding environment, either. However, the auxiliary facilities and equipment installed within the plant were seriously affected. We are currently investigating the impact of this earthquake on the plant. We are also striving to check the safety of all existing nuclear power plants in Japan in case of potential earthquakes. We believe that it is the responsibility of Japan to share with the international community what we have learned from this earthquake, thereby contributing to further improve safety worldwide. Last month, Japan received an IAEA safety expert mission, which later issued a report. Japan also intends to hold an international workshop to promote sharing information in this regard.

(Views on GNEP Scheme)

The GNEP scheme is a framework for cooperation among Partners to address challenges of energy security and global warming facing humanity as a whole and to create an environment in which the utilization of nuclear energy is enhanced, while ensuring nuclear non-proliferation, safety and security, which we call “3S” . .

Japan has promoted nuclear fuel cycles ensuring 3S, and, in this regard, it is going into the same direction as the GNEP scheme.

(Japan’s Contribution to GNEP)

It is envisaged that GNEP will conduct activities such as research and development of proliferation resistant reprocessing and fuel production technologies, and advanced recycling reactors (ARR) that employ MOX fuel.

We believe that Japan is well positioned to contribute to GNEP in this regard, because it has been engaged in research and development in this field for a long time.

Another activity of GNEP is to develop small- and medium-sized reactors. Japan could also contribute in this area with its advanced nuclear technology.

(Conclusion)

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing our support for the vision of GNEP and willingness to work to achieve its lofty objectives.

Thank you.