

(Speech draft of Dr. Oka at the High-Level Session of 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary OECD/NEA on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018)

Mr. Director General

Distinguished guests,

Good afternoon, I am Yoshiaki Oka, Chairman of Japan Atomic Energy Commission, JAEC. I feel much honored to be here. I would like to congratulate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OECD Nuclear Energy Agency.

Japan became a member of the agency on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1972. It was exactly the day when the agency changed its name from European NEA to NEA. NEA has provided a good forum for coordinating the national nuclear program of member countries. It has maintained the key features including the homogeneity of the membership, its flexible working methods, the depth and quality of its technical work, and its small size and cost –effectiveness. These features will continue to be the key to the role in the future. It will provide member countries with credible information and examples of best-practices as a well-distinguished institution in accumulation of world's best nuclear expertise.

TEPCO's Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Station Accident (the accident) occurred in March 2011. I sincerely thank NEA for the activities provided for saving the disastrous situation. NEA decided to alter the work priorities of the standing committees in order to assess the accident and identify the lessons based on the long and actual experience gained through the past accidents. Work has been carried out on nuclear regulation, nuclear safety and research, crisis communication, radiological protection, decontamination and recovery, waste management, nuclear development, and nuclear liability and compensation.

In addition, NEA has devoted significant efforts to directly supporting the technical needs of the Japanese Government, with this assistance primarily focusing on 1) recovery of land and decontamination, 2) the development and implementation of national reviews and 3) enhancement of the regulatory infrastructure. The relevant ministries and research institutions of Japan including MEXT, METI, NRA and JAEA have collaborated through the several projects like BASF, SAREF, and TCOFF.

Besides the particular issues related to the accident, I would like to add that NEA has extended its contribution for Japan to the improvement of regulations, decommissioning, re-building of public trust and so on. Representing Japan, I deeply express my gratitude to the director generals, Lois and Bill for their directions and kindness. I sincerely thank the people of NEA and the member countries for the collaboration and the support.

Over the past seven years, Japan has been working hard to enhance nuclear safety based on the lessons learned from the accident, including by fundamentally reviewing regulatory institutions. Japan will continue to share its experience from the accident with the international community and contribute to enhancing nuclear safety worldwide.

Last year, JAEC published "Basic Policy for Nuclear Energy" for the first time after the accident. It was authorized by the Cabinet. It is an indication of long-term policy directions incorporating a wide variety of viewpoints surrounding nuclear energy. It is the guideposts for JAEC itself and the relevant government ministries and agencies in performing their roles and responsibilities. Last year, JAEC also published "White Paper on Nuclear Energy" for the first time after the accident. It describes the overall picture of nuclear utilization including government efforts based on the lessons learned from the accident.

For Japan, in the short term, restart of nuclear power plants is primarily important. 7 reactors restarted after rigorous safety review of NRA. 7 plants passed the review and 12 plants are under review. 16 plants have not yet applied the review. 18 plants were shut down permanently including 4 plants which were shut down before the accident. Basic energy plan is under discussion at METI, Ministry Economy, Trade and Industry. In the long term, I believe that policy direction will need to be defined to materialize the benefit of nuclear power. New construction of nuclear power plants should not be left simply in market economy in order to address global warming issue.

NEA has been greatly contributing to member countries in maintaining and further developing environmentally sound and economical use of nuclear energy. While there exist several issues to be overcome technically, economically and socially. Extensive use of nuclear energy is indispensable for the sound development of the world in terms of economy and environment. Again, I would sincerely like to thank NEA and the member countries for their collaboration with Japan. I wish NEA's further growth, prosperity and success. Congratulations on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thank you for your attention.