

Remarks by Japanese Government Representative
at the Third IFNEC Executive Committee Meeting

October 10th, 2012

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to appreciate the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting and chairing the third Executive Committee Meeting of the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation here in Marrakech. I heartily welcome Republic of Kenya and Kingdom of Bahrain as a new full Participants, and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Republic of Moldova as new observer countries to IFNEC.

About one year and a half has passed since the occurrence of the grave damage triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the tsunamis, and of the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station (NPS) of Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO).

The Government of Japan has been making efforts towards restoration of the stricken areas, including a detailed radiation monitoring and a large-scale decontamination. The Fukushima Dai-ichi reached a so-called cold shutdown state in last December, and long-term steps have been steadily taken towards the decommissioning of its reactors. Taking this opportunity, I would like, on behalf of the Government of Japan and the Japanese people, to express our sincere gratitude once again for great support and assistance provided to us from the international community to date.

Having experienced the severe accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi that has contaminated a large area of land around the plant, Japan has been reviewing its national energy policy from scratch and formulating a mid to long term strategy for energy and environment that aims at realizing the energy mix that will be able to assure the public, building upon nation-wide discussions. As a result, the Energy and Environment Council of the Japanese Government formulated last month the “Innovative Strategy for Energy and the Environment”.

According to this strategy, Japan, aiming at making it possible to realize a society not dependent on nuclear power in the 2030's, while constantly reviewing and re-examining policies as carefully assessing future outlook including the international situation regarding energy, will mobilize all possible policy resources to demonstrate to the world a model which will underpin a good balance between the shift toward green energy and economic growth.

Mr. Chairman, Japan perceives the IFNEC as an important international framework that provides a forum for nuclear energy cooperation to explore solution for common issues in the world and to pursue mutually beneficial approaches to ensure the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in a manner that meets the highest standards of nuclear safety, security and nonproliferation. Viewing in this light we highly appreciate the activities of two working groups, the Infrastructure Development Working Group and the Reliable Nuclear Fuel Services Working Group, including the preparation of the Comprehensive Fuel Services Discussion Paper.

As a responsible country where this nuclear accident took place, Japan will continue to remain in concert and cooperate with the international community, with a view to enhancing nuclear safety, security, and proliferation resistance in peaceful uses of nuclear energy through the worldwide efforts, taking fully into account lessons learned from this accident. It is the responsibility of Japan to offer its nuclear technologies of the highest standard in safety in the world to those foreign countries that wish to utilize them, taking into account the situation and will of those countries.

Finally, it is a great pleasure for me to inform you that Japan is organizing "the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety" in Fukushima Prefecture this coming December in co-sponsorship with the IAEA to further share lessons and knowledge derived from the accident at Fukushima Dai-ichi with international community. We expect high-level participation in this Conference from as many member states and associated organizations as possible.

Thank you for your kind attention.