

Urgent Statement for North Korean Nuclear Program

October 22, 2002

Atomic Energy Commission of Japan

- 1 . According to the press statement of U.S. Department of State, October 16, North Korea has been embarked upon a program to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons against the Agreed Framework in 1994 between U.S. and North Korea. It is very regrettable and this goes against a strong wish of Japanese people who seek the ultimate abolition of nuclear weapons.

- 2 . We, the Atomic Energy Commission, consider that maintaining and strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime internationally as well as promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy is very important.

- 3 . Based upon this thought, we, AEC, have appealed the importance of peaceful use of nuclear energy at every opportunity, such as in the time of indefinite extension of the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), ratification of the CTBT (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty) and in the case of nuclear testing by India and Pakistan.

- 4 . North Korean nuclear development is a flagrant violation of the NPT which is the fundamental agreement in international society and other related international commitments. We, AEC, strongly call on North Korea to eliminate its nuclear weapon program and accept promptly the inspection by IAEA. We also request Japanese government to deal with this case in appropriate and proper manner.