

Statement by H. E. Ms. Seiko Noda,  
Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, Cabinet Office of Japan,  
at IAEA International Ministerial Conference of the Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century,  
20 April 2009

1. Opening Remarks

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to offer my warmest congratulations on the successful holding of the International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century, here in Beijing.

2. The importance of nuclear energy as a measure against global warming

Mr. President,

We are currently facing serious challenges. It is vital to the prosperity of humanity that all countries strive for coordination and cooperation to resolve those issues such as scarcity of food, poverty, and terrorism, in addition to the economic crisis which has shaken up the world economy since last year.

In particular, measures against global warming are key issues, to which all countries must unite and respond promptly, effectively and sustainably over an extended period.

At the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (Davos Meeting) in this January, Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Taro Aso, mentioned the goal of reducing the global greenhouse-gas emissions at least by half, by the year of 2050. He stressed that the Post-Kyoto framework should be all inclusive to achieve this goal, with all the big emitters joining as responsible partners.

The current year is a crucial one, in which to establish the framework for 2013 and beyond. The cooperation of all countries is required more than ever.

Mr. President,

I believe that, in order to achieve a significant reduction in global greenhouse-gas emissions while ensuring secure energy supply, the expansion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy is essential, along with the maximum implementation of other effective measures such as energy conservation, energy efficiency improvement and the use of renewable energy.

Recently, this role of nuclear energy has been widely recognized over the world.

In the 4th Assessment Report, published in 2007 by the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC), nuclear energy, which emits minimal greenhouse gases, is described as one of major mitigation technologies in the energy supply area.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) suggested in its “World Energy Outlook 2008” that the nuclear energy supply should be doubled in 2030 from the current figure, in order to achieve the 2050 target of halving the greenhouse-gas emissions.

Last year at G8 Hokkaido-Toyako Summit, the Leaders pointed out in their declaration, that a growing number of countries have expressed their interests in nuclear power programs as a means to addressing climate change and energy security concerns.

### 3. Approach toward the expansion of peaceful use of nuclear energy on a global scale

Mr. President,

From the perspective of further promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy on a global scale in a manner that ensures nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear safety and nuclear security, Japan is determined to play its important role as a leading country, focusing its effort on the following two approaches:

Firstly, Japan will try to make it an internationally accepted common perception that the peaceful use of nuclear energy is an essential measure against global warming. This common perception would help the development of effective international frameworks for further promotion of the use of nuclear energy.

Japan has been making efforts in the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA), which is a cooperation of 10 countries in the region. At the Ministerial-Level Meeting in December 2007, a Joint Communiqué on “the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy for Sustainable Development” was issued.

In the communiqué, it was decided that they work towards raising global awareness that, in the Post-Kyoto framework, it is important to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy as a clean energy source, and to recognize that nuclear energy should be considered in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

This joint communiqué was circulated within the IAEA member states as INFCIRC/725.

Also in the ministerial-level Executive Committee of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) held in October 2008 in Paris, a joint statement of similar contents to the FNCA Joint Communiqué was issued based on the proposal from Japan.

Mr. President,

Secondly, Japan will offer active cooperation to address the need of those countries that try to develop the infrastructure for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Japan has been engaging in research, development and use of the nuclear energy for over 50 years, strictly limiting itself to peaceful purposes. Japan has steadily accumulated a broad range of technology basis, ranging from basic research and the development of human resources to technological innovation systems.

Consequently, Japan has rich experience and capability that cover the whole aspects of the use of nuclear energy, such as nuclear power generation, nuclear fuel cycle, radiation application and radioactive waste management. Currently, 53 nuclear power units are in operation in Japan, supplying one third of the total electric power.

It should be useful to apply these valuable experience and knowledge of Japan effectively and efficiently, to the assistance in the infrastructure development of those countries that intend to introduce or expand nuclear power generation.

As a member of the Board of Governors since the foundation of the IAEA, Japan has been making significant contributions to the Agency's activities for the promotion of peaceful nuclear technologies. Japan has been sharing its experience and knowledge on the peaceful use of nuclear energy with developing countries through the technical cooperation and other programs of the IAEA. Japan has also been sharing its advanced safeguards technologies with the IAEA.

In addition, Japan is making efforts under the frameworks of multilateral cooperation, such as GNEP and FNCA.

For the latter in particular, a "Study Panel on the Approach toward Infrastructure Development for Nuclear Power" will be started this year, in order to share the practical experience and knowledge accumulated in those member countries that are operating nuclear power plants.

Japan is also actively providing bilateral assistances to countries that are planning the introduction of nuclear power generation, especially in Asia, in the development of the necessary infrastructure.

#### 4. Closing Remarks

Mr. President,

To achieve a significant reduction of global greenhouse-gas emissions while pursuing economic development, it is needed to expand the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which emits minimal greenhouse gases. Japan will actively play the key role in the promotion of the global expansion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, through the activities of the IAEA.

Thank you for your attention.