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**Comment by JAIF President Hattori on
Speech on the Environment by PM Taro Aso**

Nuclear Generation Plays Important Role Against Global Warming

Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. (JAIF)

On June 10, Prime Minister Taro Aso announced his policy of reducing Japan's greenhouse-gas emissions by 15% from 2005 levels by the year 2020 (8% from 1990 levels), as a medium-range target. In his speech, he declared his intention to "make the utmost effort to develop and promote the widespread use of innovative technologies and nuclear energy."

To realize the Prime Minister's medium-range target – and to achieve ultimately a low-carbon society – it is essential to enable nuclear generation to serve as a base-load power source, together with introducing a very significant volume of renewable sources of energy.

In order for nuclear generation to play a significant role, it will be necessary to make steady use of existing reactors, as well as constructing new nuclear plants that are currently planned. In those efforts, of course, it will be also required to gain the understanding of the public, especially local residents near the nuclear power plants.

In those respects, however, Japan's nuclear generation is currently not in a position to fully exert its potential. The nuclear industry is determined to tackle and solve, through concerted efforts, the problems it faces, so that nuclear generation can meet the expectations of people having for it in the battle against global warming.