

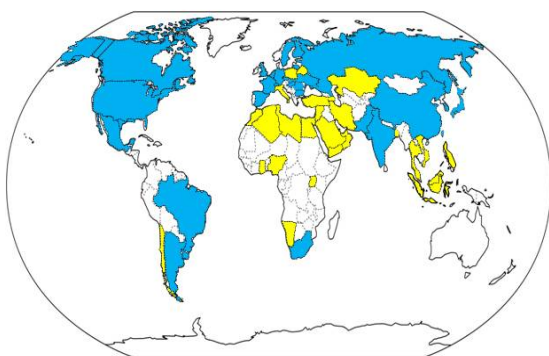
## **JICC Starts as Japan's One-stop Service Organization Helping Countries Aiming to Introduce Nuclear Power**

In March, amidst clear global trends, the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. (JAIF) established the JAIF International Cooperation Center (JICC) to provide one-stop service to countries planning to introduce nuclear power, primarily to help them develop their infrastructure. JICC coordinates the integrated efforts taken by the Japanese government, industry, and academic world toward that end.

*Toshiaki Sakai, Director, JAIF International Cooperation Center (JICC)*

### **Outline of JICC**

Today, there is a fresh recognition worldwide of nuclear power's importance, in light of rising concern about global climate change and energy security. That movement is often referred to as the "nuclear renaissance." Plans are being made to construct new reactors in the United States, Britain, China, India and elsewhere – countries in which nuclear power is already established. In addition, more than 20 countries, including Vietnam and Indonesia, have expressed their intention to introduce nuclear power for the first time (Fig.).



*[Fig: Countries with nuclear power (blue) and those planning to introduce it (yellow)]*

Japan, with few natural energy resources, has steadily built nuclear power plants (NPPs) over the years to ensure a stable and economical supply of electricity. It now has more than four decades of experience with their safe operation. The accumulated technology in the field of

nuclear power is something that Japan can truly be proud of.

Given that background, those countries planning to introduce nuclear power have been asking Japan to cooperate in the development of human resources, legal infrastructure, and other related areas.

So that proper responses to those requests can be made, Japan's government, industry and academia need to unify their efforts. Thus, the JICC was established as Japan's "one-stop service" contact point for such nations in March 2009, with JAIF President Takuya Hattori as its head.

In July, I became the director of JICC, under Pres. Hattori, after returning from Paris, where I had been on my second overseas assignment as the director of the European Office of the Japan Electric Power Information Center, Inc.

JICC's currently maintains a staff of seven people (plus me) – five at the Center and two project advisors (one each responsible for Vietnam and Indonesia). We are all busy responding to requests for help from countries planning to introduce nuclear power, in such areas as human resource development, as well as requests for visits by specialists and others.

All of us want to contribute to expanding the peaceful uses of nuclear energy around the world, and to the development of the nuclear industry in Japan.

## Activities

JICC provides cooperation and assistance, supported by government subsidies, to countries that have concluded agreements with the Japanese government on cooperation in the nuclear area. As of fiscal 2009, those countries are Vietnam, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kazakhstan. Additional countries are expected to conclude cooperation agreements in the future, and JICC looks forward to working with them as well.

At present, JICC's major cooperation and assistance efforts are as follows:

- Inviting Leading Figures

JICC invites key figures to Japan, both in political and administrative areas, from countries considering the introduction of nuclear energy. The aim of such visits is to let them observe directly the situation of nuclear power in Japan, and help them better understand the country's nuclear technology. Discussions with key Japanese nuclear-related people also help to build higher levels of trust within bilateral relationships.

- Staging On-Site Seminars/Workshops

JICC stages seminars and workshops in countries planning to introduce nuclear power. There, Japanese specialists, experts, and others give lectures on such topics as the development of human resources, selection of sites, financing, and legal issues. Another activity is explaining the background and history of Japan's own nuclear technology, as a way to illustrate various aspects necessary to support nuclear power, such as infrastructure development.

- Dispatching Specialists/Experts

JICC dispatches personnel who specialize in various nuclear subjects to countries newly interested in nuclear power, so as to gather information and exchange opinions with relevant parties. That contributes to more effective and efficient projects in the areas of cooperation and assistance.

In addition to those activities, JICC also serves as a one-stop service window, allowing Japan to respond properly to individual requests from countries. Those responses are closely coordinated among the parties from industry, the government, and various universities and research organizations in Japan.

*JICC's Web site (in English):*

<http://www.jaif-icc.com/english/index.html>



*[A Seminar in Vietnam: September 2009]*