

## JNC and JAERI Are Now JAEA

On October 1, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), based in Tokai-mura (Ibaraki Pref.), was launched through the official merger of the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (JAERI) and the Japan Nuclear Cycle Development Institute (JNC). JAEA combines the results and experience of JAERI's basic research with JNC's nuclear fuel-cycle efforts, aiming to create an integrated nuclear R&D organization second to none in the world.

JAEA begins with a management structure of 11 executives, led by Pres. Yuichi Tonozuka and Vice Pres. Toshio Okazaki. For maximum effectiveness, a mechanism – a system of R&D units – was provided to integrate the efforts of the two predecessor organizations' R&D facilities, scattered across the country. Pres. Tonozuka expressed his expectations as follows: "Conditioned upon the assurance of safety and co-prosperity with local communities, we will carry out projects by concentrating our efforts after a careful selection."

Merging JNC and JAERI was a major part of the government's administrative and financial reform program, and the new JAEA, with about 4,400 employees and a total FY2005 budget of ¥191.1 billion (\$1.684 billion at \$1=¥113.5), is now the largest independent administrative entity. It bears a great responsibility as Japan's sole organization integrating the entire process of nuclear research, from basic research to project-based applications. In a ceremony on October 1, President Tonozuka and other officers unveiled a plaque with the JAEA name at the front gate of its headquarters (see photo).



JAEA maintains a total of ten R&D facilities, extending from Hokkaido in the north to Okayama Pref. in the south. JNC and JAERI had a total of 12 such facilities, but two were eliminated after a reorganization of those in Tokai-mura and Oarai Town (both in Ibaraki Pref.). In consideration of the new organization's special relationship with Fukui Pref., considerable emphasis has been put on the Tsuruga headquarters (Tsuruga City, Fukui Pref.), with some managerial functions centered there, and Vice Pres. Okazaki taking overall responsibility for its operations.

The newly introduced system of R&D units at JAEA was a central reform step, with the two predecessor organizations' R&D efforts reorganized into nine areas: (1) safety research, (2) advanced basic research, (3) nuclear basic engineering research, (4) quantum-beam application research, (5) nuclear fusion R&D, (6) next-generation nuclear systems R&D, (7) nuclear fuel-cycle technology development, (8) geological disposal R&D, and (9) back-end promotion. JAEA's R&D will thus be carried out in a unified manner, with each area being led by a separate person. In the area of next-generation nuclear systems R&D, the employees of the former JNC and JAERI now work together, in a model of the "fusion" of the two entities.

At a celebration on October 3, Pres. Tonozuka told the JAEA officers and employees present to aim high and be the world's "number one" in every area. He called upon them to find the inspiration needed to generate creative results responding to the "people's mandate and society's expectations," exhibiting a "strong will" to achieve targets tenaciously, and seizing upon the spirit of "fusion and cooperation" to give birth to a new organizational climate and traditions.

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