

## **JAEA Spells Out Environmental Measures to Be Taken by Underground Lab**

**On November 14, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) concluded agreements with Gifu Prefecture and Mizunami City to protect the environment for local community residents in connection with activities at its Mizunami Underground Research Laboratory (MIU). The basic principles are: (1) to report to the local municipalities about the environmental impact of laboratory activities and (2) to make that information readily available to the public.**

In terms of actual environmental protection measures, JAEA will properly manage the drainage from its activities, including the springs and rivers into which the water is drained and the excavated soil, according to relevant regulations. The agreements also stipulated that such measurements will be taken by JAEA on its own initiative in order to observe such provisions, and will make the results available to the public.

The agreements also provide that should an accident or other event occur that might impact the environment, JAEA will immediately notify the related municipalities and take the necessary actions. In addition, a crisis management manual will be prepared, and a body established to consider environmental protection measures, etc.

On the same day that they were signed, JAEA Pres. Yuichi Tonozuka made the following comments on the agreements: "JAEA's basic business philosophy includes fully securing safety and maintaining society's trust. In that context, we deem it very important to make every effort to protect the environment when and where it might be affected by our business activities. JAEA considers the geoscientific research carried out at the Tono Geoscience Center as a very important project, and activities at MIU are the core of that. We are determined to carry out our activities while building trust in society by observing the environmental protection agreements concluded today."

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