

JAIF Presents the Governmental Nuclear-related Budget Request

The Japan Atomic Industrial Forum (JAIF) has presented to the relevant ministries and agencies its request for a sum to be included in the governmental nuclear-related upcoming fiscal year's budget, now being drawn up by the government. Additionally, it also submitted its opinions concerning the revision of the Basic Energy Plan that the government is to finalize this autumn.

The budget request lists nine highly important items deserving of special consideration, including the following: (1) promotion of technological development of the fast breeder reactor (FBR) cycle (nuclear fuel cycle), (2) support for the enterprise to handle the disposal of radioactive wastes, (3) efforts for the purpose of utilizing existing nuclear power plants (NPPs), (4) support for the development of next-generation light water reactors (LWRs), (5) efforts for the promotion of the plan to use MOX fuel, and (6) general improvement of the environment for the furthering of international business efforts by Japanese companies in the nuclear area.

In the revision of the Basic Energy Plan, JAIF has requested especially that the government execute mid-range and long-term policies "with an unshifting axis," listing the following among policies to be included: (1) organization of an environment toward meeting the target of a 30-40% or higher for nuclear power's share of the total electricity generation, (2) promotion of a more sophisticated safety regulation system, (3) securing fiscal resources toward the establishment of the FBR cycle, (4) steady promotion of measures to deal with radwastes, (5) organization of an environment promoting private-sector investment over the mid-range and long-term future, and (6) working toward the incorporation of nuclear power in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

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