

JAIF Establishes Nuclear Industry Safety Charter

On October 23, the Japan Atomic Industry Forum (JAIF) issued the so-called "Nuclear Industry Safety Charter," a document containing principles that are intended for JAIF member companies and others engaged in nuclear-related businesses always to keep in mind. The charter was announced by JAIF Chairman Takashi Imai at a press conference on the same day. Having taken the lead in establishing the charter, he said, "We are determined that no accidents will be allowed to happen."

The preface of the charter states that "nuclear energy is essential to the realization of a prosperous, sustainable society, including the securing of a stable supply of energy and environmental protection." At the same time, it notes that "there are potential dangers, and securing safety is a fundamental premise for the use of nuclear energy."

It also says that the charter will serve as "guidance for the actions of all individuals who are part of the nuclear industry," adding that the "heads of organizations should take all necessary actions to ensure that the contents of the charter penetrate into the forefront of the consciousness of all people at every work site of each organization." It continues by calling on all member companies and organizations to make "voluntary and continuous practices and efforts."

The text consists of five articles (see below), stated in a straightforward manner. Each article also includes brief explanations as to implementation.

Article 1: We shall make safety the top priority in every circumstance, with a sense of responsibility and a sense of mission.

Article 2: We shall learn from past mistakes, accepting the lessons with humility, and sharing the information, understanding and wisdom acquired, whereby safety measures shall be thoroughly implemented.

Article 3: We shall endeavor to establish an open environment at every work place, enabling everyone to raise and discuss any matter related to safety.

Article 4: We shall maintain a questioning attitude, never feeling satisfied, even in the light of good safety performance.

Article 5: We shall affirmatively make even negative information available to the public, and shall listen sincerely to voices across the full spectrum of society.

JAIF Executive Vice Chairman Takuya Hattori said, "I think it is significant that the entire nuclear industry is establishing this charter. What is important next is how to make it take root at all work sites. It is my hope that everyone carries out activities making the charter a reality on a daily basis."

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