

## FNCA Proposes New Panel

On November 1 and 2, the 3rd Panel in the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation, entitled the "Role of Nuclear Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia," was held in Tsuruga City (Fukui Pref.). It was sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), part of the Cabinet Office, and was co-sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Participating in the panel were 18 representatives from eight FNCA member countries: China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

In his opening address, AEC Chairman Shunsuke Kondo said, "The supply of safe, economical energy is a necessary condition for raising any national standard of living." In his welcoming speech to the panel, Vice-governor Yoshio Iijima of Fukui Prefecture said, "Making the best use of the characteristics of the prefecture, which hosts 15 nuclear power plants (NPPs), we aim to become a base for human development and exchange activities in which researchers, engineers and technicians from both Asia and around the world can productively work together."

The panel also decided to issue a report consolidating the discussions of the previous meetings, which dealt with themes applying to all FNCA member countries, namely, energy supply and demand, energy policies, and common problems in introducing nuclear power. The report will be presented at the upcoming 7th FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting, to be held on November 27 in Malaysia. It also agreed that a new panel would be useful in discussing future cooperation in the area of nuclear energy, and will propose that at the ministerial meeting.

After the panel, a technical tour was made of the Tsuruga NPS of the Japan Atomic Power Co. (JAPC) and the FBR Monju of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA); mostly the overseas panelists participated.

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