

FNCA Ministerial-level Meeting Held in Malaysia

On November 27, the 7th Ministerial-level Meeting (MM) of the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) – the purpose of which is to promote the safe utilization of nuclear technology, contributing to the socioeconomic development of Asia – was held in Kuantan, Malaysia. At a round-table meeting of ministerial-level personnel responsible for science, technology and nuclear policy from ten countries, including Japan, participants agreed that nuclear power should be discussed as part of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol at conferences held among signatory nations to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP).

Bangladesh participated in the meeting for the first time as an official FNCA member. Katsuei Hirasawa, senior vice-minister (for science and technology policy) of the Cabinet Office, was Japan's representative.

FNCA is engaged in cooperative activities covering 12 themes in eight fields, based on partnerships among countries. While previously the focus was solely on radiation applications, a new panel on the “ Role of Nuclear Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia ” was established in 2004 to carry out basic discussions about nuclear power generation.

After receiving a report from the panel, the matter was discussed at the MM round-table meeting. The participants positively viewed the role that nuclear power can play in developing countries in Asia, and agreed that “ as a demonstrated technology, nuclear power is a key option for the stable supply of energy, and can contribute to alleviating climate change and air pollution. ”

In addition, in the interest of taking another step forward on the matter, Japan proposed that a new panel be established to discuss cooperation in the area of nuclear power in Asia; all countries agreed to that.

Participants confirmed the common recognition that the following activities are necessary when discussing the introduction of nuclear power: securing safety, assuring nuclear security, developing human resources, carrying out PA activities, implementing financial planning, evaluating economic efficiency, and developing the foundation for nonproliferation.

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