

## Japan to Boost Cooperation with Indonesia, Aiming to Develop Energy Infrastructure

Between November 26 and 29, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia paid an official visit to Japan, during which he held a summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the 28th. The two leaders released a joint statement calling for a "strategic partnership toward a peaceful and prosperous future," confirming their aim of enhancing the cooperative relationship that has existed between the two countries for many years.

As far as the field of energy is concerned, Yudhoyono and Abe pledged to cooperate in the development of infrastructure aiming at the introduction of nuclear power, through the dispatch of experts and other forms of personnel support.

Indonesia has drawn up a plan to introduce nuclear power by the year 2017 or so, in view of its economic growth and a need to reduce petroleum consumption. The recent summit underscored the recognition by both countries of the importance of their mutual cooperation in the field of energy, confirming the strengthening of their cooperative relationship in such areas as the clean utilization of coal, an improvement in energy efficiency, and the development of nuclear power predicated on safety.

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