

JAIF Chairman Meets Niigata Governor

In the afternoon of November 30 at the prefectural government office, Chairman Takashi Imai of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. (JAIF), paid a visit to Gov. Hirohiko Izumida of Niigata Prefecture, home to Kashiwazaki Kariwa NPS of the Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO). The chairman explained JAIF's issuing of the Nuclear Industry Safety Charter in October, and the two exchanged opinions. This was Imai's second visit to a prefectural governor since he became JAIF chairman, and the first since the charter was issued. He had called upon the governor of Aomori in September.

Chairman Imai first expressed his appreciation for the role Niigata prefecture plays in providing electricity to Tokyo – about one-fifth of the total electricity consumed by Tokyo. Referring to Japan's low rate of energy self-sufficiency and the importance of recovering the nation's confidence in nuclear power, he said that he would continue visiting prefectures with the message that safety would be thoroughly secured.

Gov. Izumida also brought up the recently revealed falsification incident by TEPCO – in fact, reported just that morning – in which the difference between the intake and discharge temperatures of seawater at the Kashiwazaki Kariwa NPS were altered to appear within the target range of 7 . He said, “ Although TEPCO had been engaged in various activities to recover the confidence of the people after it had falsified data previously, it went and did the same thing again. That is very serious in terms of the power utility's credibility.”



JAIF Chairman Imai (left) and Gov. Izumida

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