

## Japanese and French Nuclear Experts Meet in Tsuruga

On December 13, the 10th Japan-France Expert Meeting on R&D of Next-generation Nuclear Reactors and Nuclear Fuel Cycle Systems was held in the Atoms Hall in the head office of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) in Tsuruga City (Fukui Pref.).

Having already built a cooperative relationship in such areas as future reactors, the fuel cycle, and hydrogen production, the two countries confirmed at the meeting that their activities thus far had shown excellent results. They also agreed that cooperation would be strengthened based on a framework of bilateral cooperation and the General IV International Forum (GIF). France expressed its strong support for the resumed operation of the fast breeder reactor (FBR) Monju, and confirmed that the development of FBRs is a key element in the cooperation.

The Japanese representatives explained the issuance of Japan's policy on R&D for the FBR cycle, as well as its official "Plan to Make Japan a Nuclear Energy Powerhouse," and so forth. Meanwhile, French representatives explained the legislation, enacted in June 2006, dealing with a plan for the sustainable management of nuclear materials and radioactive waste. That legislation included a decision to start the development of a prototype fast reactor, aiming at commercial operation starting in 2020.

The next meeting will be held in November 2007 in France.

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