

## **Indo-Japanese Summit: Prime Ministers Agree on Importance of Nuclear**

From December 13 to 16, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India, a country that is experiencing spectacular economic growth, made a state visit to Japan. On the 15th, he held a summit with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, and the Japanese leader told him that Japan was still reserving its final position toward the agreement between the United States and India on civil nuclear energy cooperation, and said it was important that India respond to negotiations, etc. with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in a way that would meet the concerns of international society.

On the same day, the two leaders signed a joint statement leading toward a "strategic global partnership between Japan and India," in which they shared their recognition of the importance of nuclear energy, from two aspects. First, they said it had an important role to play as a safe, sustainable and non-polluting source of energy that could meet the growing global energy demand. Second, they said that international cooperation concerning the civil use of nuclear energy ought to be promoted through a constructive approach under appropriate IAEA safeguards.

Additionally, the two countries agreed to continue discussions about the framework of international cooperation with India's civil nuclear power development. Moreover, they pledged to promote cooperation through the Asia-Pacific Partnership regarding the issues of clean energy development and the climate, launching intergovernmental consultations about the environment and climate change.

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