

Increase of Almost Ten Percent in Preliminary Nuclear-related Budget Requests for Fiscal 2008

On September 4, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) consolidated its preliminary figures for nuclear-related estimated budget requests for the upcoming fiscal year, FY08, which begins on April 1, 2008.

The total amount is JPY495.8 billion (US\$4.311 billion at \$1=115 yen), representing an increase of 9.7% from the current fiscal year (FY07). Of that sum, JPY147.5 billion (\$1.283 billion, up 13.1%) has been earmarked for the general account and JPY348.3 billion (\$3.029 billion, up 8.3%) for the special account for energy's power-source development promotion account. The latter figure can be further broken down into JPY194.2 billion (\$1.689 billion, up 5.8%) for power-source siting measures and JPY154.1 billion (\$1.34 billion, up 11.6%) for power-source utilization.

The breakdown by ministry and agency, listed in decreasing order, is as follows:

- Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), JPY289.5 billion (\$2.517 billion, up 8.7%)
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), JPY195.5 billion (\$1.7 billion, up 12.6%)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JPY8.7 billion (\$76 million, down 9.8%)
- Cabinet Office, JPY2.1 billion (\$18 million, up 1%);
- Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, JPY38 million (\$330,000, up 35%)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, JPY15 million (\$130,000, up 62%)

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