

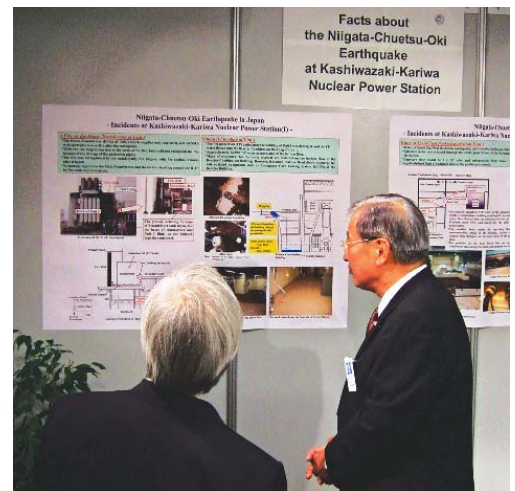
JAIF and JANTI Organize Earthquake Booth at IAEA General Conference

Between September 17 and 21, the 51st General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was held in Vienna, Austria, with a total of 144 countries and regions participating. In addition to discussions about the responses to be made to Iran's and North Korea's nuclear programs, a report was also delivered and debate conducted about the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) being promoted by the United States. A two-day scientific forum was also held concurrently with the conference, under the keynote theme of "Global Challenges and the Development of Atomic Energy: The Next 25 Years."

The Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc. (JAIF) has participated as an observer in the yearly conference ever since receiving consultative status from the IAEA, collecting information and exchanging opinions. This time, JAIF Senior Managing Director Nobuo Ishizuka went to the conference.

In the lobby of the conference hall, there was an exhibition of IAEA's activities describing the fruits of various technological cooperation projects, along with booths organized by the participating countries. Japan was represented by three organizations in the exhibition part of the conference this year, one of which was the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), which introduced nuclear fusion, the fast breeder reactor (FBR) Monju, and the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex (J-PARC). Meanwhile, JAIF and the Japan Nuclear Technology Institute (JANTI) jointly arranged a booth displaying posters and video images of the events surrounding the July 16 Niigata Chuetsu Offshore Earthquake, with its effects on the Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Station. Two officers from JANTI were posted at the booth to give explanations. A pamphlet was also distributed summarizing the contents of the posters.

Many visitors came to view the JAIF-JANTI booth, including Vice-Minister Yoshio Nakagawa of Japan's Cabinet Office (in charge of science and technology policy), Minister Yongyuth Yuthavong of the Thai Ministry of Science and Technology, and members of IAEA's recent inspection team to the NPS. The visitors asked various questions, especially about the amount of radiation released after the earthquake and the prospect for operations to start up again. Asian visitors – Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Korean, Vietnamese, etc. – seemed to be particularly more interested in the earthquake effects than were the Europeans.



Editor: Noriyuki Ishii, JAIF