

## **FNCA: Discussion Panel on Nuclear Power Meets for First Time**

**On October 30 and 31, the Atomic Energy Commission of Japan (AEC) sponsored the first meeting of a panel within the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) to discuss the issue of cooperation in the field of nuclear power (see photo).**

The panel was set up to deal with the issues of developing human resources, ensuring safety and security, and introducing safeguards, among others, and the meeting this time involved a discussion of the first issue at hand, namely, how to develop the necessary human resources.

AEC Chairman Shunsuke Kondo greeted the panel at its first meeting by saying, "Nuclear power is composed of a broad range of engineering fields, and the personnel involved must be both aware of details as well as being able to manage things generally. FNCA has already established the Asian Nuclear Training and Education Program (ANTEP), and looks forward to the expansion of its application. I would like to propose the promotion of a network of its graduates, as well as an award recognition program for the most capable graduates."



Next, reports were presented about the level of nuclear power development in each of the member countries, and the issues facing each country. China is now training personnel to support its goal of expanding overall nuclear generating capacity to 40GW by the year 2020. Vietnam is getting its infrastructure ready for the commencement of nuclear power plant operations by 2020. Meanwhile, Indonesia plans to begin operation of two nuclear power units around the year 2015, and Thailand aims to introduce nuclear power by 2020 or so.

Those countries contemplating the introduction of nuclear power requested peer reviews about their plans. Also, there were calls for the sharing of information between FNCA member countries, as well as for presentations by Japan, China and Korea on their experiences in launching nuclear power.

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