

Vietnam and Japan to Strengthen Cooperation

On November 27, President Nguyen Minh Triet of Vietnam, on a state visit to Japan, met with Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda. The two leaders agreed on further expanding the relationship between their nations, toward establishing a “strategic partnership.” After the meeting, they signed a joint statement, with a declared agenda covering various activities to cooperate in.



The 44-item “Agenda Toward a Strategic Partnership between Japan and Vietnam” includes nuclear energy among items related to climate change, environment, and natural resources and energy, as follows:

26. Nuclear Energy

Cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear energy is important from the standpoints of energy security and protection of the global environment. The two sides express their intention to continue bilateral cooperation including development of necessary infrastructure for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in Vietnam. The two sides will promote multilateral cooperation in the framework of the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) and welcome the 8th FNCA Ministerial Meeting to be held in Tokyo in December this year. With respect to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is necessary to ensure non-proliferation, safety and security, for which the IAEA Additional Protocol, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and the Convention on Nuclear Safety play vital roles. These efforts could lead to discussions on a bilateral agreement for nuclear cooperation in the future.

On the same day, Minister Vu Huy Hoang of the Ministry of Trade and Industry accompanied President Triet on a courtesy visit to Minister Akira Amari of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI). Minister Hoang expressed appreciation for Japan's cooperation with Vietnam in introducing nuclear power, and expressed his strong hope that such cooperation would continue.



Vietnam has already completed a pre-feasibility study on the introduction of nuclear power. For that study, Japanese electric power utilities, manufacturers and the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum (JAIF) rendered assistance through the offices of the Japan Consulting Institute (JCI). Minister Hoang expressed gratitude for those activities.

At present, Vietnam is considering carrying out a full feasibility study, regarding which Korea and France have also made active approaches. Those involved speculate that Vietnam may come to a conclusion as early as next spring.

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