

FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting Calls for Nuclear CDM

On December 17 and 18, the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) held its 8th Ministerial Level Meeting in Tokyo. The various ministers attending the meeting signed a joint communique regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy for sustainable development. The document included mention of efforts aimed at getting a worldwide consensus on the following two points, as part of a (post-Kyoto Protocol) framework for dealing with global warming in 2013 and beyond: (1) promoting the introduction of nuclear power premised on nuclear nonproliferation and safety; and (2) making nuclear power eligible for the application of the clean development mechanism (CDM) and the special climate change fund (SCCF).



The joint communique built upon the results of discussions made between 2004 and 2006 at multiple meetings of FNCA's Panel for the Role of Nuclear Energy for Sustainable Development in Asia, as well as the Study Panel for Cooperation in the Field of Nuclear Energy in Asia held in Tokyo in October 2007.

The communique included six items that were decided upon by the ministers: (1) to promote the introduction of nuclear power, and to appeal to the world to make nuclear power eligible for the CDM and the SCCF; (2) to promote policy dialogue for the peaceful utilization of nuclear power, as well as contributing to CO2 reduction; (3) to strive for nonproliferation through efforts reinforcing cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as promoting the ratification of additional protocols, etc.; (4) to promote the exchange of information and the sharing of experiences related to nuclear safety; (5) to strive to act in union with the IAEA and the international community in order to secure nuclear security; and (6) to promote the exchange of information and the sharing of experiences for the purpose of reinforcing and promoting the peaceful, safe utilization of nuclear technology.

Having decided upon those items, the participating countries confirmed that securing a stable supply of energy was a common challenge, adding that it was important to introduce renewable energies and nuclear power as ways to achieve such a supply. They also agreed that since nuclear energy was a proven technology that could serve as a foundation for energy supply, and since it contributed both to a stable energy supply and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, it was absolutely necessary to develop the social infrastructure for its promotion in addition to the technological infrastructure, including such areas as human resources, a system of regulations, financial mechanisms, and public consensus.

In the press conference held after the meeting, Fumio Kishida, Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, said, "I would like to relay this joint communique to the rest of the world," adding that many of the representatives of the various nations felt it "important to translate the decided items into action in the future."

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