

## **Leaders of Japan and Kazakhstan Sign Joint Statement on Bilateral Cooperation**

**On June 20, at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan signed a joint statement on cooperation, including the nuclear field. The two share the recognition that much room exists for two-way, complementary cooperation between Kazakhstan, which is blessed with abundant natural resources, and Japan, which possesses a variety of advanced technologies.**

The joint statement covers cooperation in the realms of politics, economics and peaceful nuclear development, specifically citing progress that has been made in various areas, including nuclear fuel fabrication and R&D, in addition to the joint development of a uranium mine. Both parties agree that they will try to conclude negotiations as soon as possible on a nuclear agreement between them.

On June 19, a day before the meeting with Prime Minister Fukuda, President Nazarbayev met Minister Akira Amari of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) in Tokyo. The Kazakh president expressed his desire for projects with "high added value," along with development of the mine, and asked Minister Amari to strive toward the early conclusion of a nuclear agreement, which is necessary before actual cooperation on various projects can begin.

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