

## **Ministries and Agencies Asked for Nuclear Budget 6% Boost in Fiscal 2009 - Focusing on Technological Development and International Cooperation**

**The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), along with other ministries and agencies in the Japanese government, consolidated their budget requests for fiscal 2009 (April 2009 to March 2010) at the end of August. On September 2, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) announced the combined nuclear-related budget requests for FY09.**

Together, the various ministries' and agencies' requests totaled JPY491.4 billion (approximately \$4.56 billion at \$1=¥107.7), an increase of 6% from the current fiscal year (FY08). Of the total sum, JPY138.1 billion (\$1.28 billion, up 11%) has been earmarked for the general account, and JPY353.3 billion (\$3.28 billion, up 4%), for the special account for energy's power-source development promotion account. Looking at the breakdown by ministry/agency, MEXT requested JPY275.3 billion (\$2.56 billion), up 5.3%; METI, JPY204.8 billion (\$1.90 billion), up 7%; and other ministries and agencies, JPY11.3 billion (\$105 million), up 5.3%.

Using the funds, the Japanese government plans to vigorously pursue the technological development of the fast breeder reactor (FBR) cycle, next-generation light water reactor (LWR), and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project. It will also further enhance areas such as international cooperation, human resource development and seismic safety.

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