

## **JSME Lauds Kashiwazaki Kariwa Operation Teams for Seismic Response Efforts**

On October 24, the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (JSME) held an award ceremony in Yokohama to award the efforts of those individuals and organizations that have made longstanding achievements and contributions to the society.

This year, one of the award went to the operation teams of Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Station (NPS) , Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) , for their actions last year in carrying out the cool-shutdown of the plants during the Niigata Chuetsu Offshore Earthquake.

The operational teams on duty along with the inspection teams of Units 2, 3, 4 and 7 each received "sector-general and contribution citations" this time in recognition of their notable contributions.

When the earthquake struck on July 16, 2007, those four units were either operating or powering up. Yoshitaka Irisawa, who was the on-duty officer in charge of Unit 4's operation at the time, said that he first felt a strong shock "like a big thud," soon after which he felt the reactors "scram". Thereafter, the excellent coordination between the different units allowed for the cool-temperature stoppage of the plant.

Irisawa said that the experience impressed upon him the importance of sharing information and carrying out communication correctly [during such disasters]. He also commented that he would take the lessons learned in last year's earthquake "to heart" as he continued his services.

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