

## **UAE, Jordan and Others Request Japan for Cooperation in Newly Introducing Nuclear Power: Speech by ANRE Director Takahashi**

**The Japan Atomic Industrial Forum (JAIF) held a meeting of its coordinating council for members in Tokyo on November 14. There, Taizo Takahashi, Nuclear energy Policy Planning Division Director of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE), gave a speech to the attendees on Japan's atomic energy policy and international strategy.**

Takahashi referred to the plans being made to significantly expand the level of nuclear power in the world, from the perspectives of energy security and the prevention of global warming. The optimistic scenario foresees 50 new units being constructed per year, and even the not-so-optimistic scenario sets the pace at 20 units per year. Given that the actual pace of nuclear power plant (NPP) construction in the late 1960s and early 1970s was around 30 units per year, he said that those goals were quite achievable if the proper investments were made.

Takahashi also said that he was watching the situation in the United States carefully, wondering whether the construction plans for new NPPs will be affected by the recent financial crisis. He mentioned, "The utility companies in the United States are optimistic, and don't seem to be so worried. They are keeping calmer and more collected than I had expected."

As for the future moves by Japanese nuclear manufacturers to do more business overseas, Takahashi emphasized that the government intends to support them in their efforts, even though none of them have signed any export contracts yet as the primary supplier.

In addition, he said that the Japanese government was receiving requests for cooperation in the nuclear field from various countries, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Jordan. He added that "detailed talks" had begun.

*Editor: Mio Kimuro, JAIF*