

## **FNCA Ministerial Meeting in Manila Stresses Development of Nuclear Power Infrastructure and Radiation Application** — **FNCA Japanese Coordinator, Dr. Sueo Machi Reports**

**The 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting (MM) of the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) was held on November 28, 2008, in Manila, with the Philippines and Japan acting as joint sponsors. A total of nine countries participated: Australia, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Korea, and Vietnam.**



Minister Dr. Estrella Fagela Alabastro of the Philippines Department of Science and Technology (DOST) served as the chairperson of the proceedings, with Vice-minister Yoshitake Masuhara of the Cabinet Office participating as the ranking official from Japan.

The officials attending the meeting this time held intensive discussions on how FNCA should cooperate in the areas of developing an infrastructure for nuclear power generation and making radiation utilization commercially viable. Many of the country reports that were presented also emphasized the importance of nuclear power for securing a stable supply of energy, as well as the need to promote uses of radiation that would be useful for improving people's lives.

Meanwhile, the six FNCA member countries yet to introduce nuclear power (Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh have made plans to do so in the near future, while Malaysia and the Philippines are both keenly examining the issue) appealed strongly to the three countries already with nuclear power – China, Korea and Japan – for their cooperation, with special importance placed on the need to train personnel. The three countries with existing nuclear power facilities are being counted on to share their experiences and information about the important items requiring discussion in terms of the introduction of nuclear power.

In response to that, the participating countries strongly expressed their support and agreement to a Japanese government proposal to launch a study panel starting in 2009 on the approaches toward the development of a nuclear power infrastructure.

*Editor: Mio Kimuro, JAIF*