

N20 Joint Statement  
May 9-10 , 2006

1. The Group N20 of nuclear experts of Japan and France, held its 13th meeting in Margaux, France, on May 9 and 10, 2006.

During this two days meeting, the experts exchanged information and views on the following topics : status of national programs, international aspects of nuclear energy, future nuclear systems, transportation of radioactive materials, nuclear energy in the short and medium term.

2. Both parties noted a renaissance of nuclear energy which is a competitive technology, without any greenhouse gas emissions, and which improves global energy security. This advantage should be taken into account through measures for making easier its development such as CDM mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol.

3. In promoting nuclear development, it is essential that both countries foster understanding from their societies by fully implementing information disclosure. The various nuclear related parties should provide, without fail and always in timely manner, information to the people and especially to leaders and opinion makers, on the effectiveness and significance to society of nuclear power. This should help foster a more positive public opinion.

Lively entrepreneurship and a strong sense of social responsibility are required from the persons who are involved in nuclear technology development which is the public interests.

4. On the French side, the following events have been underlined

- for the regulatory framework :

- a draft law on the management of radioactive materials and waste which was presented to the council of Minister and will be examined by the Parliament before summer.

- a draft law on nuclear transparency and security which defines a new legal framework for the control of nuclear activities.

- on the industrial side the decision to build an EPR at the Flamanville site

5. Concerning the international aspects of nuclear energy, both parties welcome GNEP as a major shift in the US fuel cycle policy and as new initiative to enhance the worldwide development and expansion of nuclear power generation while reinforcing nuclear non-proliferation. This initiative is relying on technical grounds similar to those of GEN IV and both parties support a close international cooperation for the R&D needed for developing nuclear systems and consistent with both initiatives.

6. The Japanese side explains that in order to develop the FR cycle effectively, it is important to establish a global standard and to share its R&D. Sodium-cooled fast reactor and actinide recycling was indicated as the most appropriate candidate. The experts should make an effort to reach a consensus on the technology areas for establishment of the standard.

French president announced on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 that France will launch a prototype of GEN IV reactor to be operational in 2020.

The Japanese and French roadmaps for developing future nuclear energy systems are consistent. Both parties decided to work together in order to harmonize them.

7. Japan and France both operate industrial scale reprocessing plants. French Party congratulates JNFL for the successful start of Rokkasho-Mura reprocessing plant. JNFL thanks French government and AREVA for their warm support. JNFL has started the long-awaited active test of the reprocessing plant on March 31, and has updated information on the JNFL's fuel cycle activities. JNFL expressed its intent to operate the plant with transparency and to make it a model of peaceful use of nuclear energy following the long tradition of Japan policy. French side presented a proposal for transition between existing plants and future GEN IV systems, allowing energy security, a further optimization of the repository for waste management and proliferation resistance while relying on proven technologies.

8. French side mentioned that taking into account life extension of its fleet, the plant renewal could start around 2015-2020 and will be based on evolved and mature PWR (such as EPR). On Japanese side, a nuclear power plant is expected to operate for 60 years if the equipment maintenance programs are properly implemented. Japanese government has already evaluated nine units for the possibility of 60 years of safe and reliable operation. Hereafter, the operation and maintenance system is required that can keep improving the safety culture.

9. An appropriated framework for nuclear power plant projects is needed for developing countries. This framework includes not only education, safety and organization but also consideration of nuclear non-proliferation, security and environmental protection. Both parties support the development of such a framework and will contribute to study adapted nuclear technologies, for instance small or mid size reactors either to produce base load electricity supply (LWR or small modular fast reactor) or to supply process heat (HTR).

10. The Waste Management Working Group has been efficient to exchange experience on procedures and laboratory results. Concerning the Economy Working Group it has started a cost comparison assessment and will continue to present a new analysis on the basis of a common methodology.

Discussions on strategy issues led to set a fast reaction link to propose, when needed, an harmonization of the position of both countries.