

The 14th N-20 Joint Statement

1. The Group N-20, consisting of nuclear experts from France and Japan, held its 14th meeting in Kyoto, Japan, on June 4-5, 2007. In the two-day meeting, the French and Japanese experts exchanged information and views on the following topics:

- Nuclear development policy and progress
- Nuclear fuel cycle policy and nuclear non-proliferation
- Regulation and self-inspection
- Economics

2. Both sides reconfirmed that nuclear energy is essential not only in Japan and in France, but also for the future of the world, from the viewpoint of energy security and prevention of global warming. They confirmed that environmentalists have also begun recognizing its importance, as utilization of nuclear energy was referred for the first time in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) meeting last month.

3. Both sides confirmed again that thorough disclosure of information is essential to promote a better understanding of the general public of nuclear development. The Japanese side underlined that it is indispensable to have confidence of the people including ones living near nuclear facilities in consideration of the recent experiences of electric utilities. The French side shared the same view.

4. The French side explained the legal frameworks for radioactive materials and waste management and for nuclear transparency and security, which were settled last year. The Japanese side explained the nuclear energy national plan adopted last year and the new FR cycle development program.

5. Both sides expected a large increase in utilization of nuclear power generation in the future, including in emerging countries. They had a common understanding that the reactor type which will be adopted in these countries will mainly be LWRs.

6. Both sides confirmed that nuclear advanced countries, especially France and Japan, should provide required technical support to the emerging countries to license, construct and operate nuclear power plants in stability and safety in their countries.

7. Both sides had a common understanding that it is essential to secure nuclear non-proliferation, safety and security while exporting nuclear technology to the emerging countries.

8. Considering LWRs will be constructed and operated in many emerging countries in this century, both sides had a mutual understanding that it is important that these countries be aware of their responsibilities in the management of spent nuclear fuel produced from their future LWRs. Both sides confirmed that France and Japan should contribute to find a solution to this issue, notably by providing treatment services and recycling of valuable materials contained in spent fuel.

9. Both sides confirmed that FR cycle has a strong point as one of the measures to make it possible to reduce the environmental load by reducing the amount of HLW, to greatly increase the efficiency of uranium resource use and to realize stable supply of energy and further increase proliferation resistance. Both sides had a common understanding that France and Japan should further intensify cooperation to develop FR cycle for actual use in an early stage to contribute to the solution of the problem mentioned above.

10. Regarding the development mentioned above, international organizations and countries concerned have proposed ideas. Both sides confirmed that GNEP initiated by the United States is one of the important ideas and that France and Japan jointly participate in this program to promote it. Both sides confirmed that France and Japan should promote development by mutually cooperating and making good use of each experience accumulated.

11. Both sides confirmed that it is important for France, Japan and the United States, that have almost the same development plan of FR cycle:

- to share the development target of introducing innovative technologies and the design standards,
- to promote cooperation to jointly make good use of large-scale sodium test facility and to aim at the actual use of FR cycle of international standard.

They also confirmed that cooperation of these three countries will accelerate technical development and secure early and certain realization of FR cycle. Besides they confirmed that actualization of FR cycle of international standard design will make it possible to make great contribution to stable supply of energy in the world and to cope with global warming problem.

12. Both sides stressed the importance of the Generation IV International Forum in allowing to keep open a variety of technological options for these future systems.

13. Both sides underlined that the responsibility of securing safety of nuclear facilities lies with operators and their thorough self-inspection should be required. On the other hand, both sides shared recognition of the necessity of promoting rationalization of the regulation framework and international harmonization.

14. The nuclear economy Working Group provided a comparison of economy among oil/gas/coal/nuclear power generation. It becomes clear that nuclear power generation is superior in its economy than thermal power generation considering each external cost, especially under present condition of fossil fuel prices. It was recognized that nuclear fuel recycling was an even more attractive option in the light of current trends on uranium prices.

15. Looking to the future, both sides stressed that the G8 summit to be held in Japan in 2008 should be an opportunity to foster recognition of shared goals in the field of peaceful use of nuclear energy and agreed to contribute to the preparation for deep discussions at the summit.