

The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT)

Plenary Meeting

June 1, 2017, Tokyo

**Keynote Address by Mr Kentaro SONOURA,
State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan**

Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all of you gathered here in Tokyo to attend the Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT).

The threat of nuclear terrorism remains one of the greatest challenges to the peace and security of the international community. North Korea conducted two nuclear tests and launched more than 30 ballistic missiles since last year and it has reached a new level of threat to the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Japan reiterates its strong demand that North Korea refrain from any further provocation, immediately and fully implement all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and abandon all nuclear weapons as well as existing nuclear and ballistic missile programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner.

Nuclear security is a hugely important issue on the global agenda. The fourth Nuclear Security Summit and the second IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security were held in 2016. They marked a milestone in our efforts to enhance nuclear security.

The GICNT, together with the IAEA, is an action-oriented initiative to promote global nuclear security.

It has established three priority areas – nuclear detection, nuclear forensics, and response and mitigation.

The GICNT has conducted nearly 100 events in more than 30 countries since its foundation.

Meanwhile, the ISCN, the Center of Excellence of Japan in nuclear security, has actively participated in the Working Groups of the GICNT. It has already produced substantial results such as the development of nuclear forensics analysis together with the relevant agencies of the United States and the European Union.

As the first CoE in Asia, the ISCN has contributed to regional capacity-building. It has received more than 3,300 trainees since 2010.

If you plan to join the optional tour to the ISCN, you will experience its cutting-edge system of Virtual Reality and fully grasp Japan's efforts to promote nuclear security, contributing to regional capacity-building.

On June 5, the International Symposium on Technology Development for Nuclear Security will be held by the ISCN. It is hoped that this event will help raise public awareness of nuclear security in Japan.

The Government of Japan intends to strengthen measures to combat nuclear terrorism by focusing on major public events, as illustrated by the country's cooperation with the IAEA for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Addressing new emerging threats in nuclear security such as cyber-attacks is also a critical challenge in promoting international non-proliferation. Every State responsible for internal nuclear security should continue to strengthen its own capabilities by developing an adequate domestic system.

Also, in order to tackle cross-border incidents, we need to promote the exchange of information while paying attention to its sensitivity. This global initiative with 88 partner nations and 5 international organizations offers various fora to share information and good practice and thereby to strengthen the national nuclear security regime.

We are confident that the GICNT, with its distinctive expertise, is becoming more important for enhancing nuclear security as our efforts to this end become segmentalized and specialized. Since Japan has profound expertise and advanced technology in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, we have come to play an important role as a leading country in the region in this respect. Japan is committed to more actively participating in the activities of the GICNT and further strengthening international nuclear security through global capacity-building.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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