

Statement by Mr. Ichita YAMAMOTO,  
Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy,  
Head of Delegation of Japan  
at the 57<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the IAEA  
16 September 2013

Mr. President,  
Mr. Director General,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to congratulate you, H.E. Ambassador Xolisa Mabhongo, on the assumption of your duties as the President of the 57<sup>th</sup> General Conference of the IAEA. The Government of Japan also welcomes Brunei Darussalam and the Commonwealth of The Bahamas as new members of the IAEA.

This 57<sup>th</sup> General Conference has approved the reappointment of the Director General, Mr. Yukiya Amano. Under Director General Amano's leadership, the IAEA has been working vigorously on the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy not only in the field of nuclear power, but also in non-power applications such as cancer therapy and water management. I would like to congratulate Director General Amano on his reappointment and wish him continued success.

Allow me to explain briefly our current efforts to address the accident at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

We understand that the contaminated water issue has been drawing international attention. Taking countermeasures against

this contaminated water leakage issue is the most urgent task for us. The Government of Japan has decided to assume a proactive role to achieve a fundamental settlement of this issue.

As Prime Minister Abe stated, the entire Government will continue working in an integrated manner to put its full weight into settling the contaminated water issue, while also enhancing the dissemination of accurate information to the international community.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Government of Japan formulated the “Basic Policy for the Contaminated Water Issue at the TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station” aiming at the fundamental settlement of this issue. In line with this policy, the Government of Japan decided to provide funding of 47 billion Yen for the projects, such as building the frozen-earth impermeable wall and building more advanced multi-nuclide removal equipment, which require the Government’s proactive involvement.

With regard to the influence of the contaminated water, increased radioactivity was observed within the port of the TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, in an area smaller than 0.3 km<sup>2</sup>. No significant increase in radioactive levels has been detected outside the port at present and the radioactive level outside the port and in the open sea remains below limit of WHO’s Guideline for drinking water quality.

I wish to add that, after the Fukushima Daiichi Accident, Japan adopted the highest level of standard for food and water quality, in line with international guidelines, and has been conducting strict monitoring and distribution management.

The safety of water and food in Japan is guaranteed.

The nuclear reactors at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station had been cooled down and stabilized by the end of 2011. A

significant decrease in radioactive releases has been also achieved. The Government of Japan and TEPCO are steadily taking measures to realize the decommissioning of the reactors. The removal of spent fuel from the fuel pool is scheduled to start this November.

The decommissioning work at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and resolving the contaminated water issue are unprecedented tasks which face a series of difficulties. A structure to bring together technologies, expertise and wisdom from Japan and the international community, including the IAEA, is needed. In August this year, the “International Research Institute for Nuclear Decommissioning (IRID)” was established to meet this need. Also, Japan will set up an online forum to collect suggestions and recommendations from public. The collection of proposed suggestions and technologies is scheduled to start this month. The second IAEA decommissioning mission to address the contaminated water issue will be dispatched to Japan in autumn this year, following the one that took place in April. Japan is also planning to receive a follow-up IAEA remediation mission in October this year.

Japan will deal with the contaminated water issue and the decommissioning work in an internationally open manner and will welcome recommendations and cooperation from the IAEA and the international community.

We extend our invitation to all the delegate to attend Japan’s side event on the current status of the Fukushima Accident, including the contaminated water issue. It will be held this afternoon in the C2 conference room of the C Building.

In December last year, the current Government was formed under Prime Minister Abe in Japan. The Abe Government, with the firm determination not to let an accident ever happen again and with the commitment to strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation

regime, will review from scratch the policy known as “Zero operation of nuclear stations by 2030’s” decided by the former Government and reestablish a responsible energy policy which will ensure the stable supply of energy and reduce energy costs. The Government of Japan has been working on a new medium-and-long-term energy policy including nuclear energy with a view to formulating it by the end of this year.

Japan will re-start the nuclear power plants which are currently shut down once their compliance with the newly enacted regulations is confirmed by the Nuclear Regulation Authority. We will work on obtaining acceptance from the relevant local Governments for the restart of these plants. As for Japan’s nuclear fuel cycle policy, Japan will continue the reprocessing of spent fuel and recycling plutonium as fuel while ensuring transparency.

It is our country’s responsibility to contribute to the improvement of nuclear safety in the world. Japan will continue to offer technologies with high standards of safety to the countries which plan to introduce or expand their own nuclear power programs. For this purpose, Japan, together with the IAEA, hosted the “IAEA Nuclear Energy Management School” in May this year. Japan has been engaging in activities in the areas of nuclear technology and knowledge management, human resources development, institutional development, and the promotion of public acceptance in nuclear power introducing countries, among others.

Japan is determined to further contribute to the strengthening of nuclear safety worldwide by sharing the experience and lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident with the international community. To this end, Japan hosted the “Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety” in December last year in cooperation with the IAEA. 117 states and 13 international organizations participated in this conference and

reaffirmed the importance of strengthening nuclear safety. Japan expresses gratitude to the Malaysian Government for co-chairing the conference, the member states for their participation, and the IAEA Secretariat for their invaluable contribution to the success of the conference.

It goes without saying that Japan will actively cooperate with the IAEA to formulate the IAEA comprehensive report on the Fukushima Daiichi Accident.

In Fukushima, various cooperation projects between the IAEA and the Fukushima Prefecture and the Fukushima Medical University are ongoing.

I would like to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the Japanese people our sincere gratitude to the IAEA and its Member States for the support extended to Japan.

Japan believes that the steady implementation of the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan adopted in September 2011 is a high priority and has been supporting this process. In May this year, the “IAEA RANET Capacity Building Centre” was designated in Fukushima Prefecture and the first training course was held with 40 participants from 18 countries. Japan will actively contribute to the strengthening of nuclear safety worldwide by working on the strengthening of the RANET (Response and Assistance Network), reviewing IAEA safety standards, as well as engaging in discussions on nuclear-safety related conventions, in cooperation with the IAEA.

In July this year, the IAEA successfully organized the “International Conference on Nuclear Security”, the first ever ministerial-level conference on this issue at the IAEA. Japan, once again, would like to express its great appreciation for the efforts made by Director General Mr. Amano and his staff.

Mr. Shunichi Suzuki, Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for

Foreign Affairs attended the conference together with a number of participants from Japan who contributed actively to the success of the conference.

Japan continues to play a responsible role in strengthening nuclear security as a country utilizing nuclear energy. Japan will host a workshop ahead of receiving IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) missions to Japan. Japan has been accelerating the work toward its ratification of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM).

In order to contribute to the strengthening of international nuclear security, Japan established, in December 2010, the “Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN)”. Since then, the ISCN, in cooperation with the IAEA, has provided seminars on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and training courses on physical protection to about 850 experts from Asian and other countries and thereby contributed to strengthening the non-proliferation and nuclear security systems of those countries. The ISCN has also been conducting research and development activities on advanced technologies regarding the measurement and detection of nuclear materials for possible applications in the areas of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear security. The ISCN is actively sharing these endeavors with the international community.

Japan will continue and strengthen this kind of contribution in cooperation with the IAEA and other countries.

In order to promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy, it is essential that we strengthen the safeguards, while ensuring nuclear safety and security.

Japan therefore advocates the universalization of the Additional Protocol in the context of strengthening of the safeguards.

In this regard, Japan welcomes the fact that five states concluded additional protocols in 2012 and is grateful for the work of the IAEA Secretariat in this regard. Japan, in cooperation with the IAEA and other member states, will continue to work on the

universalization of the Additional Protocol.

North Korea's nuclear issue is a serious threat to peace and security not only for East Asia but also for the entire international community.

In February this year, North Korea conducted its third nuclear test despite the repeated calls by the whole international community to comply fully with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and not to conduct any further provocation including nuclear tests. This nuclear test by North Korea, when taken together with two missile launches last year which show the enhancement of its capability to deliver weapons of mass destruction, is totally unacceptable, as it represents a grave challenge to the international non-proliferation regime centered on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and seriously undermines the peace and security of Northeast Asia as well as the international community as a whole.

Furthermore, in April this year, North Korea announced its intention to restart the Yongbyon nuclear facilities. If North Korea readjusts and restarts the Yongbyon nuclear facilities, it will be in violation of its commitments under the Six-Party Talks and its obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Japan has grave concerns in this regard.

In order to prevent further development of North Korea's nuclear programmes and in order to address the threats posed by the procurement and proliferation of nuclear material and equipment by North Korea, it is essential for the international community to be united in continuing the steady implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. It is imperative that the international community clearly express its firm position that it will never acknowledge North Korea as a Nuclear State.

With regard to the Iranian nuclear issue, the country must dispel all suspicions and restore the confidence of the international community.

On September 27<sup>th</sup>, the IAEA and Iran will hold the first round of

talks since President Rouhani took office as the new Iranian President. Japan urges Iran to cooperate fully with the IAEA to resolve all outstanding issues.

Japan firmly believes that the benefits of peaceful uses of nuclear technology should be enjoyed by the largest number of IAEA member states. Japan thus supports Director General Amano's initiatives to promote peaceful uses of nuclear technology in non-power applications.

Technical Cooperation is a practical means of realizing this goal. In order to further support the IAEA's activities in this area, Japan, in addition to its contribution to the Technical Cooperation Fund, has contributed \$3.5 million each year since 2011 to the "Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI)".

I am pleased to announce that Japan will make a contribution of 0.5 million euro to support the renovation of the IAEA's Nuclear Sciences and Applications Laboratories in Seibersdorf.

Japan attaches great importance to the non-power application of nuclear technology in areas such as water management, food, agriculture, medicine and industry, and is continuing its cooperation to this end. This year's Scientific Forum, which will start tomorrow, focuses on the marine environment.

We recognize the vital importance of oceans, and believe that the protection of the marine environment is an essential element to address global challenges including climate change. Japan values the Agency's activities in this field, especially the establishment of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre in Monaco, and contributed one hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) US dollars from our PUI contribution to the Centre this year. Japan is looking forward to fruitful discussions at the Scientific Forum.

Japan is determined to continue its contribution to the international community in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, by sharing, in cooperation with the IAEA, the experience and lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident with the world, while ensuring safeguards/non-proliferation, nuclear safety and nuclear security in conducting nuclear activities.

Thank you for your attention.