

## **Third Annual Japan-UK Nuclear Dialogue (Summary of Discussions)**

**Date:** 9–10 October 2014

**Venue:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tokyo

### **Co-Chairs:**

Mr. Yoshitoshi Nakamura (Deputy Director General,  
Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, MOFA, Japan)  
Prof Robin Grimes (Chief Scientific Adviser, FCO, UK)

### **Background**

The Prime Ministers of Japan and the UK held a summit meeting in Japan in April 2012 and produced a joint statement during the British Prime Minister, David Cameron's, visit to Japan. The 'Japan-UK Framework on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation', which was annexed to the joint statement, states that Japan and the UK decided to launch an annual dialogue at senior level to strengthen bilateral cooperation across the full range of civil nuclear activities. The first Annual Japan-UK Nuclear Dialogue was held on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in Tokyo, Japan. The second Annual Dialogue was hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London, UK on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013.

The third Annual meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in Tokyo, Japan on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

### **I. Session One: Decommissioning and Clean-up**

Both sides discussed decommissioning and decontamination related issues, and welcomed the Working Group's activities over the past year which had included:

- A workshop held between British and Japanese experts on various aspects of nuclear decommissioning.
- Visits to Sellafield and Fukushima Daiichi by technical experts from the UK and Japan.
- The secondment of a TEPCO engineer to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to learn about decommissioning in the UK.

Both sides welcomed the agreement between TEPCO and Sellafield Ltd to exchange information on management and technology for decommissioning.

Both sides shared their intention to support the Working Group to convene a further workshop in 2015, building on the excellent co-operation demonstrated by the Sellafield-TEPCO agreement. The Working Group will also discuss ways in which the UK and Japan can cooperate on delivery, and consider how UK decommissioning expertise and Japan's new build expertise can complement each other.

The UK recognised the impressive progress made with Fukushima Daiichi decommissioning and offsite decontamination, and expressed interest in learning from Japanese experience. Both sides discussed the establishment of Japan's Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (NDF).

## **II. Session Two: Nuclear Policy**

The two delegations updated each other on their current nuclear energy-related policy including Japan's new strategic energy plan and the UK's electricity market reform. The UK gave an update on its new build programme, and the important role of nuclear as a low carbon energy source. The UK welcomed Japanese industry's involvement in the UK's new build programme. The delegations discussed the benefit of Japan being a part of the global nuclear community. The UK welcomed Japan's progress towards restarting reactors which receive safety approval and the wider commitment to a role for nuclear energy as outlined in Japan's strategic energy plan.

Common challenges, for example on safe interim storage and long-term geological waste disposal without foreclosing options, were introduced. Both sides acknowledged that it was important to continue sharing expertise and information in order to support each other's policy development on nuclear energy.

## **III. Session Three: Nuclear Safety and Regulation**

Representatives from each country's regulatory bodies, Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA), shared detail of their regulatory systems with ONR introducing their strategic priorities and NRA presenting on the reform of their organisation. Japan described its strategy to enhance nuclear safety culture.

Both sides reaffirmed their intention to continue cooperation on information exchange between NRA and ONR. Delegates agreed that existing Information Exchange Arrangements between NRA and ONR were valuable and would continue to be implemented to ensure further regulatory exchange.

Emergency preparedness and human resource development were highlighted as areas where the UK and Japan can learn from each other, particularly on training and knowledge management.

## **IV. Session Four: Nuclear Research and Development**

Both sides welcomed the establishment of the Working Group on Nuclear Research and Development and the Japan-UK Joint Research Fund as well as the adoption of two research projects approved by the Fund (one on severe accidents and the other on environmental safety). Both sides look forward to expanding partnership through the Joint Research Fund and by other means.

Both sides shared a common understanding on the importance of exchanges of researchers to deepen understanding and collaboration on research and development (R&D).

Japan explained the outline of the Acceleration Plan of Reactor Decommissioning R&D for Fukushima Daiichi including the International Collaborative Research Centre on Decommissioning. The UK welcomed the plan in terms of promoting decommissioning and reconstruction in Fukushima and looked forward to being actively engaged.

## **V. Session Five: Public Communication**

Both sides welcomed the activities that have taken place over the past year including effective workshops on risk communication and stakeholder engagement. The UK and Japan shared experiences on public engagement and looked forward to continuing to work together including by exchanges of people, community engagement and wider experience sharing.

## **VI. Concluding Remarks**

The co-chairs, Mr. Yoshitoshi Nakamura and Prof. Robin Grimes, expressed that the Third Annual Japan-UK Nuclear Dialogue had enabled important discussions and set the scene for further Japan-UK cooperation in the area of civil nuclear energy. Through the Dialogue, both sides gained official, high-level recognition for the collaborative activities undertaken so far and delegates were able to identify opportunities for further cooperation. The delegations reaffirmed that Japan and UK share common values and see each other as natural partners to pursue further opportunities and deepen what is a historic relationship for the long term. The delegations agreed to hold the next Dialogue in London in 2015 and to continue the positive relationship.

## **Appendix: List of Acronyms**

FCO – Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK)

NDA – Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (UK)

NDF – Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (Japan)

NRA – Nuclear Regulation Authority (Japan)

ONR – Office for Nuclear Regulation (UK)

R&D – research and development

TEPCO – Tokyo Electric Power Company (Japan)