

**Joint Statement: The Fifth Meeting of
the U.S.-Japan Bilateral Commission on Civil Nuclear Cooperation
August 8, 2018**

The fifth meeting of the U.S.-Japan Bilateral Commission on Civil Nuclear Cooperation (the Bilateral Commission) was held on August 8, 2018 in Tokyo, with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette and Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Takeo Mori leading the discussions as Co-Chairs. The delegations included participants representing a wide range of governmental agencies.

Established at the U.S.-Japan summit held in Washington, D.C. in April 2012, the Bilateral Commission serves as a standing senior-level forum to foster a comprehensive strategic dialogue and joint activities related to the safe and secure use of civil nuclear energy, advancing shared goals in the field of global nuclear nonproliferation and the response to the accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

The Bilateral Commission coordinates the activities of five working groups, which cover the following subjects:

- Nuclear security;
- Civil nuclear energy research and development;
- Safety and regulatory issues;
- Emergency management; and
- Decommissioning and environmental management.

At its meeting on August 8, each of the Working Groups reported on the status of its activities to the Bilateral Commission Co-Chairs. Both sides discussed the next steps for each Working Group and how to further enhance bilateral cooperation in each field.

With respect to nuclear security, the United States and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the nuclear security posture of both countries and to reduce the threat that terrorists could acquire nuclear material. The Nuclear Security Working Group (NSWG) reported on key activities undertaken since the fourth Bilateral Commission meeting, including the removal of all highly enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium fuels from the Fast Critical Assembly (FCA) in 2016 and new HEU minimization commitments, including the removal of all HEU from the Kyoto University Critical Assembly (KUCA) to the United States by March 2022 and the conversion of the KUCA from HEU to low enriched uranium (LEU) fuels. The United States and Japan also made commitments to remove all slightly irradiated HEU fuels from the YAYOI Reactor, all HEU fuels from the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)'s Deuterium Critical Assembly, and Japan Research Reactor 4 by March 2022. Additionally, the group shared progress through technical meetings and exchanges, as well as capacity-building efforts.

Regarding civil nuclear energy research and development, the United States and Japan emphasized the impact of ongoing and planned joint research and development projects under the Civil Nuclear Energy Research and Development Working Group (CNWG) in the areas of

advanced reactors, light-water reactors, and fuel cycle research and development and waste management. The cooperation has resulted in a strengthened understanding of key drivers and initiatives in the United States and Japan, technical engagement and results that advance civil nuclear energy capabilities critical for both Japan and United States, opportunities for technical staff development and strategic engagement on civil nuclear energy research planning including new options for sharing unique facilities and capabilities, and technical reports, publications, and presentations that more broadly contribute to advancing civil nuclear energy. The United States and Japan confirmed their commitment to expand advanced nuclear reactor cooperative activities to the area of metal-fueled fast reactor accident analysis. The examination of Fukushima Daiichi Reactors for improvement of nuclear safety continued to identify practical examination efforts to support decommissioning activities and provide additional safety insights for the operating fleet. Results of examination and supporting analytical investigations are reducing uncertainties in systems analysis codes and providing insights for future decommissioning activities and enhanced safety of operating reactors. The United States and Japan noted the suspension of their collaboration in the area of extraction of uranium from seawater and some parts of aqueous separations from oxide fuels, because of the changes in research and development project priorities in the United States. The CNWG identified mechanisms for enhanced sharing of research facilities. The United States in coordination with Japan has proposed use of a Nuclear Energy University Programs Integrated Research Project that will allow facility sharing. The initiative would support university researchers in the nuclear energy field to pursue bilateral research activities and promote greater access to use of research facilities in each country.

On nuclear safety and regulation, the United States and Japan discussed the status of ongoing regulatory cooperation between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA). Since the fourth Bilateral Commission meeting, the NRC and the NRA have held four Steering Committee Meetings to facilitate and prioritize mutually-beneficial nuclear safety collaboration between the two organizations. The NRC and NRA highlighted ongoing and planned personnel exchanges that are providing capacity building to NRA during its transition to a new inspection program largely modeled on the NRC's Reactor Oversight Process. In addition, the United States and Japan confirmed their intention to enhance information sharing on radiological source oversight, decommissioning and probabilistic risk assessment. The next NRC-NRA Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held in the United States in October 2018.

On emergency management, both sides emphasized the mutual benefit of sharing approaches and lessons learned on nuclear emergency preparedness and response. The United States and Japan will continue to exchange actions and best practices in ensuring effective emergency response, data monitoring and information systems, and whole-of-government management of complex disasters. The Emergency Management Working Group (EMWG) will continue to reciprocally observe National-level nuclear emergency preparedness and response exercises, such as the 2014 drill in Shika, the 2015 drill in Ikata, the 2016 drill in Tomari, the 2017 drill in Genkai and the "Southern Exposure 2015" exercise in South Carolina, in order to share practical approaches towards strengthening preparedness and response at all levels of government. The United States looks forward to observing the August 2018 Nuclear Energy Disaster Prevention Drill at the Ohi and Takahama Nuclear Power Plants.

On decommissioning and environmental management, the United States and Japan aim to strengthen and establish a long-term strategic relationship on cooperation in environmental cleanup and decommissioning under the Decommissioning and Environmental Management Working Group (DEMWG). The United States committed to continuing and expanding collaboration and information sharing by its National Laboratories on environmental cleanup issues. To address this commitment, DOE enhanced the involvement of National Laboratories by forming the “Environmental Management National Laboratory Network” to replace the “U.S. National Laboratory Fukushima Support Network.” Further, engagement with the U.S. Department of Commerce has been enhanced to promote engagement of U.S. firms decommissioning expertise in Japan and encourage U.S.-Japan industry partnerships in decommissioning and environmental remediation. METI welcomed DOE’s commitment to continued and expanded collaboration and information sharing by its National Laboratories on environmental cleanup issues, including support for TEPCO in exploring alternatives to treatment and disposition of tritiated water, sharing DOE’s experience in working with stakeholders to obtain their support on cleanup objectives and end-states, and participation by Japan in the U.S. National Robotics Initiative. DOE reaffirmed its continued support of the International Fukushima Decommissioning Forum, whose goal is to communicate with local community and disseminate the international community as well as enhance and collect knowledge and experience from the international community on decommissioning of Fukushima. EPA and MOE shared information and data exchange about environmental remediation and welcomed the possibility of future technical collaboration. Also, agencies and laboratories on both sides will work together to address technical cleanup issues at and around Fukushima as needed.

The United States and Japan recognized the importance of continued discussion on commercial civil nuclear cooperation.

On 16th of July, the initial thirty-year period of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy has passed. This Agreement remains in force in accordance with the Agreement, as long as either party does not give notice to the other party to terminate this Agreement. This Agreement is extremely important as a foundation for peaceful use of nuclear energy and for the Japan-U.S. relationship. Both countries will continue close collaboration and cooperation for stable implementation of this Agreement.

The two sides reaffirmed their intention to continue bilateral cooperation in the advancement of shared nuclear nonproliferation objectives. They also instructed the Working Groups to continue their efforts and report their outcomes to the next Bilateral Commission meeting to be held in the United States at a date to be decided upon in 2019.

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