

## 14th APSN Annual Meeting, Country Updates from Japan

(Bangkok, November 2-3, 2023)

On behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the Government of Thailand, especially the Office of Atoms for Peace (OAP), for hosting the 14th APSN meeting in Bangkok.

Over the years, Japan has contributed to the promotion of the uses of nuclear energy in the international community, both in the field of power generation and in non-energy fields such as medical use.

In Japan, under the "Basic Policy on the Use of Nuclear Energy" which was revised by the Japan Atomic Energy Commission last February, the government has been working on long-term operation of nuclear power plants and restarting of existing nuclear power plants in order to ensure the stable use of nuclear energy subject to our major policy of ensuring the nuclear safety.

In using nuclear energy, it is essential to secure nuclear non-proliferation and ensure its peaceful use, and IAEA safeguards are a fundamental and effective means to achieve them. Japan, which promotes the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, places the highest priority on IAEA safeguards and, as a result of Japan's relevant efforts over the years, the IAEA has been drawing a Broader Conclusion for Japan's nuclear activities every year since 2003. It confirms to the international community that the peaceful nature of Japan's nuclear activities is assured on the highest level under Integrated Safeguards.

Backed by the experience and knowledge gained through such cooperation and collaboration with the IAEA, Japan has contributed to the IAEA's safeguards-related efforts, including universalization of CSAs and APs, as well as rescission or amendment of SQPs. For example, through the framework of the AP Friends in Vienna, Japan has been working together with its members to promote understanding and universalization of APs and other safeguards agreements. In this context, we again welcome Lao's amendment of its SQP in June last year.

In addition, Japan is also focusing on capacity building for safeguards in the foreign countries. While supporting IAEA's relevant projects through our voluntary contributions, Japan has been continuously providing various seminars, training courses and workshops for SSAC (State System of Accounting for and Control) experts in cooperation with the JAEA/ISCN, especially in Asian countries.

The APSN can play an important role as the region hub in such efforts.

The APSN is a unique platform in the Asia-Pacific region to share safeguards expertise and lessons learned. Japan is pleased to be able to share our expertise and practical experience in safeguards implementation with APSN members.

Japan, as the SC Chair and as one of the participating countries, is committed to ensuring that this unique forum remains needs-based, valuable, and effective for all of us.

Thank you, Chair.

(End)