

**The Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety  
Opening Remarks by Co-Presidents of the Conference  
(December 15, 2012, Fukushima Prefecture)**

Distinguished Ministers and delegates,  
H.E. Yukiya Amano, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency,  
Hon. Datuk Haji Fadillah Bin Haji Yusof, Co-President of the Conference,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

**1. Introduction**

- My name is Koichiro Gemba, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and one of the Co-Presidents of this Conference today. I would like to start off by expressing my gratitude toward everyone that gathered here today to participate in the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety. I would also like to show my appreciation for the cooperation of Honorable Datuk Fadillah, Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia as the Co-President of the Conference, and the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) including His Excellency Mr. Amano, the Director General in co-sponsoring this Conference.
  
- As the Co-President of this Conference, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and as a person who was born and raised in Fukushima, I am delighted to be able to hold this Conference today with your participation.

**2. Objectives of the Conference**

- The principal objective of this Conference is to contribute to strengthening nuclear safety worldwide. That is why many Ministers and experts from governments, and organizations all over the world gather here today. This Conference provides yet another opportunity to discuss following three points: lessons learned from the accident; international efforts aimed at strengthening nuclear safety; and protection of people and the environment from ionizing radiation.

**3. Aspirations for the restoration of the lives of those affected and the recovery of disaster-affected areas**

- We also hope that this Conference will help everyone here today become aware of the progress the people in Fukushima are making. On that note, I would like to thank those who participated in tours of Fukushima Prefecture, Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and remediation activity sites and attended the Fukushima Workshop on Safety of Products from the Disaster-Affected Area yesterday.

**4. Closing**

- During the next three days, we would like all of you to actively participate in the discussion to realize the common objective of strengthening nuclear safety worldwide while sharing your own experience and accomplishments with the international community. Requesting everyone here today to be fully engaged in the discussion and declaring my determination to fulfill the duties of the Co-President to the utmost of my ability as the person in charge of foreign policy in Japan and as a person who grew up in Fukushima, I would like to conclude my opening remarks.