

Video Message from Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

“International Conference on a Decade of Progress after Fukushima-Daiichi” held by IAEA

November 10, 2021 (Wed)



Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm HAGIUDA Koichi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan. As this year marks ten years since the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, we would like to express once again our appreciation to the IAEA and Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi, for their support over the last decade. My sincere gratitude also goes to the IAEA for hosting the “International Conference on a Decade of Progress after Fukushima-Daiichi”. We believe that it is in the responsibility of Japan to share its experience and lessons learned from the accident with nuclear safety experts around the world, and to make best use of those experiences and lessons to strengthen nuclear safety from now on. Today, I would like to give some short remarks at the opening of the Director-General’s Special Session.

While a decade has passed since the accident, the reconstruction of Fukushima is still at the halfway point. For achieving both reconstruction and decommissioning, Japan will proceed with the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station safely and steadily. In our efforts toward decommissioning, the handling of the ALPS treated water stored on the site is a challenge which needs to be tackled without postponement. In this regard, last April, the Government of Japan announced its basic policy, which states that on

the premise that TEPCO strictly complies with relevant laws and international standards, ALPS treated water would be discharged into the sea in approximately two years, after adequate re-purification and sufficient dilution. Based on the basic policy, Japan will ensure safety and take appropriate measures in a highly transparent manner. To be concrete, Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority will review the safety of the discharge, as an independent body. Japan will also conduct an assessment of the potential impact on the marine environment and marine biota, as well as on the public. Furthermore, we will strengthen monitoring before and after the discharge of the ALPS treated water. Japan will make publicly available such information accordingly, and continue to provide explanations to the international community in a highly transparent manner. Moreover, we requested that the IAEA, the international organization with expertise in nuclear safety, provide rigorous and continuous monitoring and reviews on the safety of the handling of the ALPS treated water. The Government of Japan will sincerely engage in strict reviews conducted by the IAEA in accordance with international safety standards, and will widely communicate the outcomes of these reviews.

Through the program of this event, we are confident that you — the eminent experts from many countries— will gain a proper understanding of the latest developments regarding the handling of the ALPS treated water. In closing, let me once again express my respect for Director General-Grossi, and the IAEA Secretariat for their strenuous efforts to make this international conference happen, and my wishes for the success of the conference. Thank you very much.