

Joint Statement
on
Nuclear Energy Cooperation
Between
the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan
and
the Minister of Energy Transition of France

The Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) of Japan and the Minister of Energy Transition (MTE) of France affirm that nuclear energy contributes significantly to ensure global energy security and to achieve carbon neutrality. Japan and France, as agreed in the agreement of cooperation signed in Tokyo on February 26th 1972, affirm that they will continue to deepen the mutual nuclear cooperation, their respective support for third countries with shared common values in the view to improve global nuclear safety and promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We emphasize that the legacy of nuclear technology that Japan and France have built up through their history of nuclear cooperation, and the creation of opportunities to train young people who will play an active role in the nuclear energy field in the future, are essential to maintain and strengthen the nuclear technology, human resources, and industrial base of both countries, in order to meet the world's expectations as developed countries in the use of nuclear energy.

To achieve this goal, we are setting an action plan of the governments of the two countries as a new framework for cooperation:

- (1) We will accelerate practical discussions on policy measures and cooperation, including R&D support and financing, with respect to the following themes of particular importance in the nuclear energy field.

- a) Strengthening cooperation for safe long-term operation (LTO) and safety improvement of existing nuclear reactors, under the cooperation of research institutes and industrial bodies. The collaboration areas can be R&D projects contributing to ageing and obsolescence management, as well as supporting human resources development for safer LTO.
 - b) Steady and efficient decommissioning of nuclear power plants, including safety assurance for decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Stations (FDNPS), as the reflections and lessons learned from the accident and the related efforts on its decommissioning will enhance the safe use of nuclear energy in both our countries. Cooperations between governments and between private companies will be sought to enhance industrial cooperations for the decommissioning of FDNPS.
 - d) Maintaining and strengthening the supply chain, including reactor components and nuclear fuel, if necessary, with new enrichment and conversion capacities.
 - e) Cooperation for enhancing of capacity building of nuclear power in newcomer countries.
 - f) Promotion of the reprocessing policy that minimizes waste and decreases the need for natural uranium.
 - g) Efforts to support international cooperation on nuclear safety through multilateral organizations, including in Ukraine.
- (2) We prepare to accelerate technical cooperation on nuclear fuel cycle. Research institutes and private companies will continue researches on perspectives for spent MOX fuel reprocessing (SFMOX).

- (3) France and Japan affirm the importance of building a robust nuclear supply chain between countries with shared common values when considering the development of nuclear reactors, including innovative reactors, large light water reactors as well as small modular reactors (SMRs), and their deployment in their own countries and third countries, and strengthen the policy support of both governments in this regard.
- (4) We continue R&D cooperation for the development of next-generation advanced reactors. In particular, with regard to the Sodium-cooled Fast Reactor (SFR), research institutes and private companies in both France and Japan will strengthen their cooperation and examine opportunities for new technology and design development in a manner which contributes to the mutual benefits taking into account the technology readiness and the market expectations.

The Participants have signed this joint statement in two original copies in the English language of which each Participant has received one copy.

Paris, May 3, 2023