

Outline of Comments

～ New Actions after the Hokuriku Declaration ～

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1. The Hokuriku Declaration

I, representing Fukui Prefecture, explained about “Energy Research and Development Centralization Plan” at the Energy Session of “Northeast Asia Economic Forum in Hokuriku”, which was held on 25 ~ 26 October 2007 in Toyama City.

The Forum’s “The Hokuriku Declaration” stated that “Regarding nuclear energy, Hokuriku is committed to become a base for human resource development to establish nuclear safety technology in Northeast Asia.” (excerpt) .

I will report new actions after the Hokuriku Declaration today.

2. Current Status of Japanese Nuclear Power Generation

In July 2008, G8 Summit adopted “G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders Declaration”, Chair’s Summary of which abstract (main point) is as follows.

“With respect to the long-term goal of achieving at least 50% reduction of global emissions by 2050, the G8 leaders acknowledged own leadership role and agreed to implement ambitious economy-wide mid-term goals.”

In Japan, 55 nuclear power plants are currently in operation and supplying 30% of total electricity, whereas the share of nuclear power generation in the future should be maintained at the level of 30% ~ 40%. (435 nuclear power plants are in operation in the world)

As for Fukui Prefecture, 13 nuclear power plants account for 50% of electricity consumed in the Kansai Region. In addition, proto-type fast breeder reactor (FBR) “Monju”, dormant since 1995, is scheduled to resume its operation in February 2009, and thus is expected to become the international center of FBR R&D and creating relevant industries. Furthermore, 2 advanced pressurized water reactors (APWR), world largest-class of capacity, is going to start commercial operation in 2016 ~ 2017.

The emission of carbon dioxide would be increased by 22%, if all of these Japanese 55 nuclear power plants were stopped and coal-fired power plants took over the electricity supply for one year. Therefore safety and steady operation of nuclear power plants is indispensable to promote Japanese countermeasure against global warming.

3. Energy Research and Development Centralization Plan in Fukui Prefecture

“Energy Research and Development Centralization Plan” was established by Fukui Prefecture in March 2005. This Plan was developed based on the concept that we should not confine nuclear power plants in our Prefecture as mere power production factories, but we should rather move towards making our Prefecture the center of research and development on nuclear and energy related technologies, taking full advantage of the characteristic concentration of various types of nuclear power reactors.

In November 2007, 5 chief measures were newly decided in addition to those already implemented, from view points of “Accumulation of International Research Function”, “Contribution to Development of Safety Technology and Human Resources in Asia”, and “Contribution to Local Industries”.

4. Center for Development of Safety Technology and Human Resources in Asia

Since the Hokuriku Declaration, we have been taking various actions toward the above 5 chief measures. I will report two chief measures aiming to “Contribution to Development of Safety Technology and Human Resources in Asia”, namely “Preparation of Nuclear Safety Training Center” and “Foundation of Center of Graduate School Widely-Cooperated among Universities”.

(1)Preparation of Nuclear Safety Training Facility

The Japan Atomic Power Company initiated the study for preparing the nuclear safety training facility in Tsuruga City, as the base for fostering human resources. The facility will welcome trainees and students from overseas including Asia.

In March 2009, the site, functions and scope of the facility is going to be determined, according to which necessary activities will be taken to open the facility in 2012.

(2)Foundation of Center of Graduate School Widely-Cooperated among Universities

University of Fukui started the investigation to found the center of graduate school in Tsuruga City, which is cooperated widely among the universities in Kansai and Chukyo region. This center of graduate school aims to enhance education and research functions regarding nuclear power with utilizing various resources of research facilities and experienced persons available from such as “Moju”.

It is going to be decided soon that “International Nuclear Engineering Research Center (tentative)” is going to be established in April 2009, and efforts will be made to foster human resources and perform research and development at world top-level.

Various actions will be taken to realize our “Energy Research and Development Centralization Plan”, which in turn would contribute to advancing the energy issue in North-East Asia. From this perspective, I appreciate your cooperation and understanding to our plan.

It is my great honor and pleasure to speak at this forum, and I appreciate great efforts to all the persons concerned for the preparation of the forum.

Thank you for your kind attention.