

Joint Statement of Progress on Cooperation for the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy under the US- Japan Joint Nuclear Energy Action Plan

On June 7, 2008, Akira Amari, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) for Japan and Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary of United States Department of Energy (DOE) hereby issued the following Statement on Cooperation for the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy.

“We reaffirm our commitment to promoting bilateral nuclear energy cooperation in line with the United States-Japan Joint Nuclear Energy Action Plan (JNEAP), which was signed in April 2007 with Bunmei Ibuki, the Japanese Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and Taro Aso, the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs. We are pleased with the progress that has been achieved during the first year of the JNEAP, affirm the productive cooperation between Japan and the United States of America, and will continue collaborative activities in accordance with our countries’ respective international commitments, as well as applicable laws and regulations in force in each country.

We confirm the following significant progress to date:

- a) The development of top-tier requirements for the advanced sodium-cooled fast reactor prototype design, identification of R&D and technology development items for the prototype, and consideration of future collaborative R&D including Monju restart activities;
- b) The development of a joint collaborative R&D plan for fuel cycle technology;
- c) The development of an outline of the common set of high-level system requirements of small and medium reactors;
- d) The identification of potential collaborations in investigating advanced simulation tools for analysis of 1) sodium-cooled fast reactor designs, 2) performance of sodium-cooled fast reactor fuels and materials, 3) earthquake-induced structural response of sodium-cooled fast reactors, and recognition of the cross-cutting value to other working groups of simulation and modeling technology;
- e) The examination of safeguards simulation and modeling tools and concurrence on a joint study of proliferation resistance and physical protection (PR&PP) methodology;
- f) The identification of potential areas of collaboration in developing a general approach and methodology for optimization of waste management systems; and
- g) The expression of the intention to consult on potential financing support measures that would facilitate nuclear power plant construction in the United States of America, incorporating the financial institutions identified by METI (Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) as well as Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI)), and identified by the United States Department of Energy (DOE Loan Guarantee Program Office).”