

**Summary of Comments Made at a Press Conference
by Tsunehisa Katsumata, FEPC Chairman, on February 22, 2008**

Today, I will comment on two topics.

The first is the establishment of the Power Academy.

As was announced in broad outline at last year's June press conference, the FEPC will establish a Power Academy in April of this year to recruit and foster electric power industry human resources. I would therefore like to report on specific plans for the Academy's organization and activities that were finalized at this morning's General Policy meeting.

In recent years, the mature and staid image of the field of electrical engineering has caused its popularity with students to decline, and if this trend continues, there is a danger that we will be unable to secure the human resources necessary to ensure a stable supply of electricity.

In view of this situation, we, together with the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry and manufacturers, will work on an industry-wide basis to increase the cooperative efforts of industry and academia in promoting the appeal of the field of electrical engineering and showing how it contributes to society in an effort to revitalize the field of electrical engineering by conducting all-Japan joint research and supporting other research and educational efforts.

Organizationally, we will establish a Power Academy secretariat within the FEPC, as well as a steering committee made of university teachers, manufacturers, and electric power industry personnel to discuss activities and achievements from a broad range of perspectives. The committee will be chaired by Professor Emeritus Yasuji Sekine of Tokyo University, who has for many years been a leader in the field of electrical engineering in our country.

Activities in the first year will focus on the following four points.

The first point will be to develop a research roadmap to systematically review technological issues necessary to the electric power industry and the academic research needed to address those issues, and promote the possibilities and attractiveness of the field of electrical engineering to society in a visible way.

The second point will be to conduct joint industrial-academic research on mid- to long-term electric power industry issues specified in the roadmap in order to

support young researchers, and teachers at regional universities.

The third point will be to create opportunities for students to learn about current electric power industry technological circumstances and issues by visiting electric power facilities, listening to talks given by guest lecturers, and other activities.

In addition, we will establish a new website to introduce various programs and respond to requests for [career] counseling.

I would now like to present our thoughts on the proposed report by the nation's "Conference of the Vision of Nuclear Energy for Global Environment Preservation and Secure Energy Supply " – the so-called "Conference of the Vision of Nuclear Energy" – that is currently open for public comment (2/8~2/28).

This roundtable, of which President Mori of Kansai Electric Power Company is a member, was established to consider what nuclear power should do to at least halve the world's emission of greenhouse gases by 2050, as described in the "Cool Earth 50" plan.

The proposed report, which we evaluate highly, clearly states: "nuclear energy is indispensable as a measure for the realization of a low-carbon society."

In discussing ways to prevent global warming, there is a tendency to only focus on energy conservation and renewable energy, which I feel raises expectations too high.

Of course, we are also working to spread and expand renewable energy use as much as possible.

However, if we consider electric power supply stability and cost efficiency, it will be impossible to achieve a low-carbon society in our country without nuclear power.

Discussions were held by the Nuclear Energy Subcommittee (an advisory committee on natural resources and energy to the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry) the other day (2/6), and in light of the contents of the current proposed report, I very much hope that nuclear power generation will be positioned in the post-Kyoto framework as an effective means of combating global warming.