

Summary of Press Conference Comments Made by Makoto Yagi, FEPC Chairman,  
on October 21

Today, I would like to say a few words on the following two topics: reopening of the meeting on the Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy and report on the International Electricity Summit.

1. Reopening of the meeting on the Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy

The meeting for revising the Framework for Nuclear Energy Policy was reopened in the Japan Atomic Energy Commission at the end of last month, on September 27. I attended this meeting as the Chairman of FEPC to explain the importance of achieving the best mix of power sources and thorough implementation of safety measures in nuclear power stations, as well as the necessity of the nuclear fuel cycle. Today, I would like to once again clarify our views on these topics.

Though I will not go into details today, we have taken thorough emergency safety measures in terms of both hardware and software, including deploying emergency power generating vehicles and fire engines at nuclear power stations, as well as preparing manuals and emergency response drills. We are completely committed to ensuring that an accident like the one in Fukushima never happens again.

To enhance the effectiveness of these measures, actions are being taken to ensure that situations can be dealt with steadily even in the event of a severe accident, in addition to measures to secure an even larger safety margin, including strengthening transmission lines, deploying large-capacity sea water pumps and constructing tidal embankments.

The electric power companies are also conducting comprehensive safety evaluations taking the above-mentioned emergency measures into consideration, or the so-called “stress tests”.

Each power plant will submit the results of its own safety evaluation to the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency as soon as it is ready. The electric power companies intend to explain to the public the fact that their power plants have sufficient safety margins even against incidents that exceed the safety design, using clear explanations that can be easily understood by both local residents and other Japanese citizens.

As you know, from this month, in addition to the government-led Energy and Environment Council, discussions have also started in the Basic Energy Policy Subcommittee set up under

the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy.

The review of the nation's nuclear energy policy is a critical issue that could affect the energy security of Japan in the future. We hope that the upcoming discussions will be based on highly objective data, taking long-term views on nuclear power as well as energy while considering global dynamics.

The standpoint of the electric power companies is that with an energy self-sufficiency rate of only 4%, and in view of the 3Es of energy security, economic efficiency and environment conservation, Japan must pursue a best mix of energy sources and avoid depending too heavily on fossil fuels. To this end, nuclear power is an essential source of energy among renewable energies and energy saving.

We are planning to strengthen the system for implementing safety measures based on the Fukushima accident and incorporating the latest knowledge from both inside and outside Japan in a timely manner, while sharing the latest information with other countries, thereby helping to raise the safety of nuclear power worldwide.

## 2. Report on the International Electricity Summit

I would now like to report on the International Electricity Summit, which was held for 2 days from October 10 last week in Rome, Italy.

The International Electricity Summit is a conference held every 18 months, in which the top management of FEPC, the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) of the USA and the Union of the Electricity Industry (EURELECTRIC) of Europe meet to exchange views on the current status and challenges of the electric power industry.

In this year's Summit, the twelfth, 39 participants including 8 from Japan discussed the management environment of electric power companies and global environment problems, and reaffirmed the common goal of achieving sustainable economic growth, a low-carbon society and an inexpensive and secure supply of electricity.

Regarding nuclear power, we gave an overview of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima accident at the beginning of the meeting, and the participants from various countries commented that "for the future, nuclear power is an essential source of energy to secure a stable electricity supply and to fight global warming." The participants also confirmed the shared understanding that nuclear power should be continued by taking thorough safety

measures based on the lessons of the accident.

I reaffirmed my resolve to restore trust in nuclear power upon receiving strong support and encouragement for Japan's efforts to improve nuclear safety from Mr. Conti, the president of EURELECTRIC and CEO of a power company in Italy, where a national referendum on nuclear power was held this June.

During the sessions, members from all countries expressed the opinion that it is essential to invest in power facilities to simultaneously achieve economic growth and a low-carbon society, and for the power industry to make new investments, it is vital to improve the regulations and win public support.

Regarding renewable energies, which are continuing to expand driven by government policies, the participants reported that for electric companies which are responsible for a stable energy supply, it is becoming a major challenge to find ways to stabilize fluctuating output for grid connection, and on the demand side, electrification including installation of heat pumps might be the key to improving the efficiency of energy usage.

The participants also confirmed that Japan, the US and Europe will continue to cooperate to expand the "International Electricity Partnership" activities, which aim to build low-carbon societies in emerging and developing countries by using advanced electricity technologies.

This is all for today. Thank you for your kind attention.