

Summary of Press Conference Comments Made by Kingo Hayashi,
FEPC Chairman on March 14, 2025

I am Kingo Hayashi of the Federation of Electric Power Companies of Japan.

Today, I will talk about nuclear safety improvement initiatives and initiatives to secure the supply chain.

On March 11th of this week, we commemorated 14 years since the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station accident. We continue to cause significant inconvenience and hardship for many people. I am deeply sorry as a person involved in the nuclear power business.

Under a strong commitment to never let an accident like that occur again, utilities have been working with a strong awareness of the characteristics and risks of nuclear power generation. In addition to complying with the new regulatory requirements, we have been voluntarily coming up with creative solutions to further improve safety.

For example, we established and are running three organizations to develop and share measures to improve safety not just among utilities but among the nuclear power industry.

- The first is the Atomic Energy Association (ATENA) that solves technical challenges and interfaces with the regulatory authority.
 - The second is the Japan Nuclear Safety Institute (JANSI) that evaluates and assists utilities from a third party perspective by organizing peer reviews.
 - The third is the Nuclear Risk Research Center at the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (NRRC) that develops risk assessment methodology.
- These organizations and utilities have been working together to improve safety.

I would like to share a summary of the conclusions reached this morning in a meeting between top utility management and related organizations on improving safety.

We each reaffirmed the importance of cooperation in improving power plants with an awareness of risks and through new measures from each of our standpoints. It was a meaningful opportunity to go over each of the organization's goals and initiatives once again based on an understanding of the significance of maximally utilizing nuclear power.

The FEPC reported on the actions taken by the Safety Management Reform Task Force, comprised of nuclear top management from each of the utilities.

This Task Force shares improvements that each utility has implemented in its operations and best practices, and works to ensure that these safety improvements are permanent. Additionally, utilities benchmark against other utilities to identify weaknesses in our physical protection and disaster prevention measures, striving for continuous improvement.

We also shared the measures that we have implemented and rolled out effectively based on the results of the verification of the impact of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake issued in July 2024.

Based on these discussions, we have prepared a statement summarizing the common understanding we all share.

As outlined in this statement, the industry is working closely together to voluntarily and continuously improve nuclear safety in order to achieve a stable supply of energy, economic growth, and decarbonization at the same time.

The role that nuclear power has to play for resource-poor Japan to support the livelihoods of the people, achieve economic growth, as well as decarbonization is growing larger.

This return to nuclear power can also be seen overseas. In the US, plans are being made to use nuclear power as a power source for data centers.

United Kingdom and France have set clear nuclear development scale targets as

countries and are starting to develop a business environment conducive to it.

Italy, Australia, and other countries that had been leaning away from nuclear power are restarting discussions to utilize nuclear power. I've also heard that, following the regime change after the election, Germany has begun discussing the possibility of revising its energy policy.

There have also been increased interest in building new power plants to meet growing electricity demand in China and Southeast Asia.

As the use of nuclear power gains steam, Japan must learn from the lessons of the accident and remain committed to our safety initiatives that we have been developing. We must also rebuild our supply chain overall by developing the people supporting these initiatives as well as passing down the necessary skills and knowledge.

In the symposium hosted by the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy on March 10th, the FEPC gave a presentation of the challenges and solutions to securing a supply chain.

More than 90% of equipment in nuclear power plants built in the 1970s and beyond were made domestically. This made it possible for cutting edge technologies from across Japan to be used in this nuclear supply chain.

However, companies have started to withdraw from nuclear power and dissolve as a result of the long shut-down of nuclear power plants following the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the technologies and know how are dissipating. The industry is now facing various challenges from securing talented engineers and technicians to developing talent and passing down skills.

As an industry, we must unite to overcome this situation and rebuild the supply chain. In this sense, it is very significant that the 7th Strategic Energy Plan clearly outlines a policy for maximally using nuclear power. It also highlights the importance of this policy and presented a direction for development and

construction.

Maintaining and securing the supply chain is an important challenge that needs to be addressed for Japan to sustainably utilize nuclear power in the future. The national government, manufacturers, and utilities must cooperate to face and address these challenges

To maintain the supply chain, we believe that the government must set concrete development and construction scale targets to maintain technologies and talent in addition to increasing business predictability. Though not included in the Strategic Energy Plan, we believe that nuclear power plants will need to be expanded and built to sustainably use nuclear power in the future. We will continue to lobby the government to take action on this urgent issue.

All power sources, including nuclear power, need to be used in a balanced way going forward to support the lives of the public and economic growth. Nuclear operators will continue to pursue further improvements in safety to reach a higher level of safety, which includes establishing the nuclear fuel cycle.

This concludes my remarks for today.

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