

Key Points of New “Basic Policy for Nuclear Energy” (Provisional Translation)

1. “Basic Policy for Nuclear Energy” and Background of Revision

- A ‘compass’ to show long-term directions for the government nuclear policy and to define Basic Objectives and Important Initiatives.
- The former “Basic Policy for Nuclear Energy” was decided in July 2017, and it was approved to respect by the Government of Japan.
- It was decided to revise approximately every five years considering rapidly changing circumstances, and it was declared at the JAEC to start the revision in Nov. 2021. Having accumulated discussion with and hearing from experts and stakeholders, the new Basic Policy was approved in Feb. 2023.

2. Basic Idea

Regarding Utilization of Nuclear Technology:

- Nuclear technology can contribute to development of human beings not only in energy sector but in manufacturing, medicine, agriculture, etc.
- Effective utilization of nuclear energy is important for Japan from the viewpoint of seeking for every possible option to secure energy supply and to achieve carbon neutral society.
- On the other hand, we should always be aware that nuclear energy can create nuclear weapons or cause serious disasters when it is used in wrong ways.
⇒ It is important to utilize nuclear technology wisely, with recognizing its ‘pluses’ and ‘minuses’ correctly and paying full attention to safety.

3. Status and Changes in Circumstances Surrounding Nuclear Energy

- Uncertainty over stable energy supply / Increased geopolitical risk
- Expanded movement toward carbon neutrality
- Development and construction of innovative nuclear reactors worldwide / Extension of lifetimes of existing nuclear power plants
- Reduced predictability of nuclear energy projects
- Reaffirmation of ensuring the safety of nuclear facilities against terrorism and military threats
- Expanding the use of radiation in non-power fields
- Increased awareness of economic security
- Increased importance of ensuring diversity, including gender balance

4. Important Initiatives in the Near Future

- **To break away from the “safety myth” and promote the stable use of nuclear energy under the principle of ensuring safety as the major prerequisite. The government and the industry should play their respective roles in improving the environment for smooth project implementation. In addition, they should not turn a blind eye to the issues related to radioactive waste treatment and disposal as well as new issues that may emerge as a result of the development and construction of innovative reactors, while carefully communicating with the public.**
- **The Government and the industry should work together to maintain and strengthen supply-chains and human resource development, which are fundamental for nuclear applications, not only in nuclear power applications but also in non-power applications.**

1. Continue to reflect on the Fukushima Daiichi

Accident and learn lessons

- Steady reconstruction and revitalization around the Fukushima Daiichi site
- Continuous efforts to improve safety based on the recognition that there is no such thing as zero risk, establishment of an operational structure, cultivation of the safety culture, and enhancement of preventive measures to disasters.
- Ensuring the safety and security of resident through support for the formulation of evacuation plans by the government and utilities
- Careful consideration of the nature of nuclear damage compensation

2. Use nuclear energy for stable energy supply and carbon neutrality

- Improving predictability of nuclear power projects
- Restarting existing nuclear power plants
- Efficient safety reviews
- Long-term operation of nuclear power plants
- Development and construction of innovative nuclear reactors
- Efforts to realize a stable nuclear fuel cycle
- Expansion of spent fuel storage capacity

3. Domestic and international initiatives in light of global trends

- Following up and harmonization of global standards
- Contribution to the development of global human resources and standards
- Development of strategic partnerships to jointly build a reliable nuclear supply chain among government and industries of fellow countries.

4. Ensure peaceful use of nuclear energy, non-proliferation and nuclear security under international collaboration

- Ensuring Plutonium balance
- Responding to issues of terrorism and military threats
- Support for Ukraine in cooperation with the IAEA and others

5. Rebuild public trust and confidence for using nuclear energy

- No violation of rules, no concealment of inconvenient information
- Development of human resources to bridge between experts and the public

6. Undertake decommissioning and radioactive waste management under the involvement of the government

- Establishment of a system necessary for decommissioning of nuclear power plants, which is expected to increase in the future.
- Dealing with radioactive wastes for which disposal method and place have not yet been decided
- The government should take the initiative in dealing with high-level radioactive wastes

7. Promote the utilization of radiation and radioisotopes

- Promoting efforts based on “The Action Plan for Promotion of Production and Utilization of Medical Radioisotopes” (initiatives identified for domestic production and stable supply of important radioisotopes)
- Making widely known its contribution to the maintenance and improvement of social infrastructure, and expanding the potential of its use in various fields such as industry

8. Facilitate innovations relevant to nuclear energy utilization

- R&D institutions to return their results to the society such as contributing to the vitality of private sectors
- The government to strongly support for nuclear innovation
- Maintaining, strengthening and diversifying supply chains and technology bases

9. Strengthen human resource development

- Human exchange and collaboration among a wide variety of fields and cultures
- Expansion of industry-academia-government human resource development system to meet industry needs
- Ensuring diversity of human resources, regardless of young people, women, or areas of expertise/ Next generation education