

Statement at the IFNEC Executive Committee Meeting
October 27, 2016

Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Julian Gadano and the Government of Argentina for hosting the IFNEC Executive Committee Meeting as well as the Latin American Nuclear Energy Stakeholder Conference held here in Buenos Aires.

More than five years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Since then, steady progress is being made in the decommissioning process and contaminated water management at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station. Decontamination and environmental remediation are steadily moving forward and the evacuation zones are gradually becoming smaller. Japan is committed to share this precious lessons learned from Fukushima accident with the IFNEC Member countries and the international community.

Serious efforts have been made for ensuring the safety of food produced in Japan. Recognizing that many countries have already lifted restrictions on food imports from Japan, we consider the importance of policy to be purely based on scientific evidence.

Nuclear energy is an important base-load power source in terms of stable supply, economic efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction, as long as its safety is ensured. Japan plans to restart nuclear reactors that satisfy the new regulatory requirements that were established after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station.

Achieving and maintaining a high standard of nuclear safety worldwide is a never-ending challenge. Japan reiterates its commitment to contribute to global nuclear safety through further technological development. Japan calls upon all stakeholders, including those exporting and importing nuclear power plants, to give due consideration to nuclear safety. We welcome a recent discussion on the formation of the ad-hoc nuclear supplier and customer engagement group, as we believe it could be a suitable venue to jointly discuss nuclear safety.

Mr. Chairman,

IFNEC has been an excellent forum for enhancing cooperation of those countries who have established nuclear programs and those who will embark on nuclear programs. Japan sincerely hopes that IFNEC will continue to be a forum that addresses the most needed issues for member countries and provides tangible outputs in responding to such needs. In this context, we value the recent IFNEC member survey as we believe this will be a good first step of our internal review and reform efforts.

Finally, we hope that our voluntary contribution, though it is a modest amount, will help IFNEC operate efficiently and successfully.

Thank you for your kind attention.