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## Press Release

### **Fourth meeting of Japan-France Nuclear Cooperation Committee in Paris acknowledges the strengthening of the relationship**

The Japan-France Nuclear Cooperation Committee held its fourth meeting on Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 in Paris under the joint chairmanship of Bernard Bigot, General Administrator of the CEA, and Takeshi Hikiyama, Ambassador, Director-General, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

The Committee's participants reviewed the progress made to strengthen the French-Japanese cooperation in the field of fast neutron reactors, of decommissioning, decontamination, and environmental survey related to Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, and of industrial cooperation to deliver reactors of the highest safety standards. They also exchanged information on their respective nuclear energy and fuel cycle policies, and on nuclear safety regulation bilateral cooperation.

Both sides appreciated the efforts made by the French and Japanese teams to conclude the collaboration Arrangement on the fourth generation sodium cooled fast neutrons reactor, which was signed on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2014. Both sides shared their intention to promote ASTRID research and design collaboration based on the Arrangement. Japan reported on its plan to restart Monju and Joyo reactors, and France welcomed the prospect to use these facilities when they are available.

Regarding the unprecedented challenges of decommissioning of Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear power plant, Japanese government confirmed its expectation to benefit from international expertise. France took note with great interest of the progress made on site for decommissioning and water decontamination and expressed its willingness to support Japan in this regard. The participants welcomed the positive steps already achieved through cooperation on research, establishment of joint-venture company and nomination of French experts to advisory bodies, and acknowledged that such cooperation can be further enlarged and deepened. Japan introduced the International Collaborative Research Center on Decommissioning project.

Both countries share a common view of the value of a responsible and sustainable recycling fuel cycle policy and will strengthen their cooperation in this field. French experience is readily available to Japan, especially at the time of commissioning of Rokkasho Reprocessing plant. The on-going developments in Japan and in France in the field of final waste repository create also opportunities for further strengthening cooperation.

Japan and France will maintain a close cooperation to support the joint endeavour of their companies to offer and deploy the ATMEA-1 nuclear power reactor, meeting the highest safety requirements, to Turkey (SINOP project) and to other countries. France and Japan will also strengthen their coordination to develop capacity building and institutional support with countries interested in this jointly developed reactor.

Following-up on discussions held during the previous meeting, France welcomed the intention expressed by the Japanese side to join an international nuclear liability instrument. The next meeting will be held in 2015 in Japan.

#### ***About the Japan-France Nuclear Cooperation Committee***

*The Japan-France Nuclear Cooperation Committee has been set up at the initiative of French and Japanese Prime Ministers during their meeting in October 2011 in Tokyo. The bilateral nuclear cooperation was further supported by the two Governments during the State visit of President Hollande to Japan in June 2013 and the visit of Prime Minister Abe in France in May 2014.*

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