



## **Fact Sheet: United States-Japan Joint Nuclear Energy Action Plan**

The United States-Japan Joint Nuclear Energy Action Plan is intended to provide a framework for bilateral collaboration in nuclear energy. This Action Plan builds upon our significant, longstanding civilian nuclear cooperation, and will contribute to increasing energy security and managing nuclear waste, addressing nuclear nonproliferation and climate change, advancing goals put forth in President Bush's Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) initiative. The Action Plan was signed by representatives of both nations in April 2007.

The Action Plan will be implemented by Steering Committee Co-Chairs. Assistant Secretary of Energy Dennis Spurgeon, or his designee, will serve as the U.S. Co-Chair. Japanese Co-Chairs will be selected from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Steering Committee will be established in June 2007.

The Action Plan is comprised of four main areas:

- 1) Cooperation of nuclear energy research and development to advance new technologies as envisioned in GNEP;
- 2) Collaboration on policies and programs that support the construction of new nuclear power plants in the U.S. and Japan;
- 3) Establishment of an international nuclear fuel supply assurance mechanism;
- 4) Joint collaboration to support the safe and secure expansion of nuclear energy in interested countries while promoting nonproliferation, consistent with GNEP goals.

### **Cooperation of Nuclear Energy Research and Development Under GNEP**

The GNEP-relevant portion of the Action Plan will begin immediately and will develop long-term technologies necessary for the GNEP vision.

The U.S. and Japan will establish the following six working groups to benefit from each other's expertise and implement the four areas of cooperation identified in the Action Plan:

- 1) Fast Reactor Technology;
- 2) Fuel Cycle Technology (separations and fuel fabrication technologies with proliferation resistance);
- 3) Simulation and Modeling (advanced computer simulation and modeling of advanced nuclear fuels, materials, reactor design, and validation with appropriate data);
- 4) Small and Medium Reactors;
- 5) Safeguards and Physical Protection and;
- 6) Waste Management.

### **Collaboration On Policies & Programs That Support The Construction of New Nuclear Power Plants**

The U.S. and Japan agree to establish a joint working group for the exchange of information and views and to collaborate on each other's national policies and programs that support the construction of new nuclear power plants in the U.S. and Japan.

### **Establishment of an International Nuclear Fuel Supply Assurance Mechanism**

Both parties seek to expand the peaceful use of nuclear power worldwide while simultaneously reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation. To accomplish this, the parties will work to provide technical analysis in support of, and where appropriate participate actively in, discussions concerning a reliable nuclear fuel supply assurance mechanism.

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## **Joint Collaboration To Support The Safe And Secure Expansion Of Nuclear Energy In Interested Countries While Promoting Non-Proliferation**

The U.S. and Japanese governments will consult as they each continue to support the necessary infrastructure to advance nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear safety, and nuclear security in their cooperative pursuit of the expansion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy in countries deploying new nuclear power plants. U.S. and Japanese governments will also consult on policies related to the introduction or expansion of nuclear power, in which both countries' nuclear industries are involved. This could include policies on human resources development and institutional development, export controls, and related topics.

The Action Plan formalizes our joint bilateral collaboration related to GNEP to date and establishes a proposed "Program Plan on Nuclear Energy Cooperation" in three phases.

- Phase I (2007 – June 2008) seeks to initiate near-term cooperative work having immediate impact on relevant nuclear energy challenges.
- Phase II (July 2007 – June 2011) proposes to expand the scope of the Action Plan and address the more complex challenges associated with advanced technologies such as fast reactors and associated separations and other fuel cycle technologies.
- Phase III (July 2011 and forward) entails the planning for, and integration of, system demonstrations.

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