

Sixth Annual Japan-UK Nuclear Dialogue (Summary of Discussions)

Date: 26-27 October 2017

Venue: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Co-Chairs:

Prof Robin Grimes (Chief Scientific Adviser, FCO, UK)

Mr Makoto Hayashi (Director,

Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, MOFA, Japan)

Background

The 'Japan-UK Framework on Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation', which was annexed to the joint statement at the Japan-UK summit meeting in April 2012, states that Japan and the UK decided to launch an annual dialogue at senior level to strengthen bilateral cooperation across the full range of civil nuclear activities.

The sixth annual meeting was hosted by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London, UK on 26th and 27th October 2017.

I. Session One: Nuclear Research and Development

Both sides presented on their collaboration and R&D activities over the past year. The Dialogue covered a range of topics related to nuclear energy research including fusion, which was discussed for the first time in this year's Dialogue. As part of the discussion on their collaboration, both sides discussed the UK-Japan joint research fund, and welcomed the completion of the first cohort of three-year jointly-funded projects.

Both sides discussed the value of research group exchanges and confirmed they would explore ways to publicise success.

Both sides discussed looking at opportunities to expand and widen collaboration going forward including through exploring facility sharing opportunities.

Japan introduced the OECD/NEA NEST project which they have joined.

UK introduced the JUNO project, which aims to coordinate and encourage UK academic research collaboration with Japanese counterparts.

II. Session Two: Nuclear Policy

Both sides introduced each other's policy and programmes including new nuclear build in the UK, and the recently-published "Basic Policy for Nuclear Energy" and reactor restarts in Japan. Both sides continue to engage and welcomed progress on Hitachi's Horizon project at Wylfa, as well as Japanese industry involvement in the UK new build programme as part of a broad, strategic industrial partnership between the two countries.

Both sides recognised the need for continuity in our civil nuclear cooperation following the UK's withdrawal from the European Atomic Energy Community.

Both sides discussed areas of learning from each other including on geological disposal facilities, and operating in deregulated markets. Waste management was identified as a common challenge.

III. Session Three: Decommissioning and Decontamination

Both sides noted many areas of successful collaboration on decommissioning notably between the NDA (UK) and NDF (Japan), and Sellafield Ltd and TEPCO. All sides presented on their collaboration, and the Dialogue welcomed the opportunity to hear about practical initiatives under this alliance. Both sides agreed to support collaboration in other areas and noted the overlap in decommissioning circumstances in both countries.

Both sides discussed decommissioning project management and saw the advantages of sharing experience in this area.

Both sides recognised the importance of engaging with the communities surrounding decommissioning sites which is another area for collaboration. The Dialogue touched on the similarities and potential collaboration between Monju and Dounreay.

Both sides introduced their experience working on decontamination and policy responding to offsite nuclear accidents.

IV. Session Four: Nuclear Safety and Regulation

Both sides presented on the exchange and collaboration between their regulators over the past year. This included two secondments by Japanese regulatory staff into the UK regulator.

The UK side introduced the concept of 'enabling regulation' and agreed to further share experience in this area. The ONR (UK) and NRA (Japan) noted that their bilateral arrangement signed in 2013 would be renewed next year (in 2018).

Both sides agreed to share information related to regulation of the UK ABWR.

V. Session Five: Public Communication

Both sides introduced public communication activities in their own countries. TEPCO and Sellafield Ltd presented on their joint activities and learning from each other. The UK and Japan recognised the advantages of sharing information on public communication.

Both sides discussed building community-community links to grow relationships between the UK and Japan.

The Dialogue recognised the importance of such events as the annual Fukushima Forum for information exchange.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The co-chairs, Prof Robin Grimes and Mr Makoto Hayashi, expressed that the Sixth Annual UK-Japan Nuclear Dialogue had enabled important discussions and set the scene for further UK-Japan cooperation in the area of civil nuclear energy. Both sides recognised that the Dialogue had seen real progress in collaborative activities in many areas of the civil nuclear relationship. Through the Dialogue, both sides gained official, high-level recognition for the collaborative activities undertaken so far and delegates were able to identify opportunities for further cooperation.

The delegations reaffirmed that the UK and Japan share common values and see each other as natural partners to pursue further opportunities and deepen what is a historic relationship for the long term. The delegations agreed to hold the next Dialogue in Tokyo in 2018 and to continue to promote the positive relationship.

Appendix: List of Acronyms

FCO – Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK)

MOFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan)

NDA – Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (UK)

NDF – Nuclear Damage Compensation and Decommissioning Facilitation Corporation (Japan)

NEST – Nuclear Education, Skills and Technology

NRA – Nuclear Regulation Authority (Japan)

OECD – Office for Economic Co-operation and Development

ONR – Office for Nuclear Regulation (UK)

R&D – research and development

TEPCO – Tokyo Electric Power Company (Japan)