

## SIN helps Japanese Government revamp its efforts and prioritise nuclear R&D



The Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in March 2011 resulted in a major nuclear incident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant complex. As a result Japan was left with the biggest decommissioning challenge the world has ever seen. SIN Japan worked in close partnership with FCO Chief Scientific Advisor Robin Grimes, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), UK's Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) to influence the development of an international R&D strategy for decommissioning within Japan, enabling UK research base and business to take a lead in the region.

### Response to Fukushima Daiichi – A Call to Action

SIN Japan worked with partners to:

- Increase awareness of UK decommissioning capability;
- Build credibility, and relationships, with key stakeholders and funding bodies in Japan;
- Identify areas where the UK has key technologies and expertise;
- Identify companies with which to partner, and approaches to implement UK technology-based solutions in Japan.

SIN Japan worked with the Japanese Ministry of Education, Sports, Culture, Science and Technology (MEXT) to establish a UK-Japan Nuclear Research and Development Working Group to identify common areas of interest and develop a collaborative research fund on decommissioning. In May 2014 UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and Japanese MEXT jointly issued an international call for proposals, with total grant of £1m. This call was so successful that it was later increased to £4m.

### Promoting a Sustainable Relationship

SIN Japan led a nuclear mission to the UK for Japanese senior government advisers. The mission visited Sellafield and attended the UK Nuclear Academics Annual Meeting. The visit focussed on UK capability in decommissioning and understanding of the parallels between the challenges faced by the UK and Japan. A SIN-hosted UK-Japan Nuclear R&D Symposium resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Nuclear Institute (NI) and the Atomic Energy Society of Japan (AESJ) for general cooperation.



### More Than Decommissioning

SIN Japan enhanced opportunities for UK companies and universities by providing high level support to the Japanese Government. We will continue to implement this strategy to drive a long term commitment with an extensive commercial relationship across wide range of nuclear fuel cycles such as reactor design, fuel manufacture, and fuel reprocessing.

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