
Japan Atomic Energy Agency



President's foreword

We are now in the midst of a significant change in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This momentum originates in a common challenge for all humankind to accomplish the net zero society by means of maximizing the use of nuclear energy while ensuring its safety as first priority. Discussion have been carried out from various perspectives with a sense of concrete time frame both in Japan and abroad.

In response to this global trend, we set forth its new vision in April 2023, defining the objectives that we should accomplish through our R&D activities.

It consists of the following three areas:

- **Synergy:** R&D for pursuing synergy of nuclear and renewable energies;
- **Sustainable:** R&D for making nuclear energy itself sustainable; and
- **Ubiquitous:** R&D for applying nuclear technology to diverse fields in society.

As for “**Synergy**”, we have been promoting the development of high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, as a promising option

to decarbonize industrial areas by paring the technology with renewable energies. Also, we have started R&D on uranium redox-flow batteries that enable nearly infinite durability by charging with electricity generated from renewable energy sources in a more efficient manner.

In the area of “**Sustainable**”, we develop the technologies for the volume reduction and recycling of high-level radioactive wastes in addition to the safe decommissioning of aged nuclear facilities. Specifically, with regard to the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, we steadily play an integral role in carrying out third-party analysis of ALPS-treated water to ensure its conformity to safety standard as well as analyzing the properties of the fuel debris.

For “**Ubiquitous**”, we work on establishing production capacities of medical radioisotopes in our research reactors to meet the growing demand to utilize for cancer treatment. We are also active in the development of a technology for producing electricity directly from the heat and radiation of radioactive materials.

We have yet to understand the full potential of nuclear energy. In this regard, we are at the forefront of nuclear innovation every day to create new values.

We will persevere in our efforts to achieve our mission to contribute to welfare and prosperity of human society through nuclear science and technology by fully demonstrating our capabilities and responding to changes and needs in society in an appropriate and flexible manner.

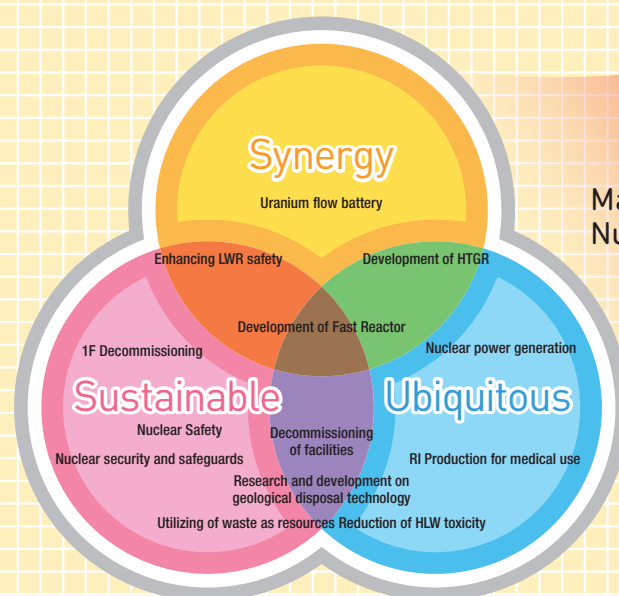
KOGUCHI Masanori
President
Japan Atomic Energy Agency

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Achieving JAEA's vision

Exploration of a New Future with the Synergy of Nuclear and Renewable



Maximize the use of Nuclear Science and Technology

It is a new **sustainable** future society which will have overcome dichotomy and integrated **nuclear** energy and **renewable** energy is that the future image we should strive for.

Decarbonized society by FY2050

Synergy

Pursuing Synergy of Nuclear and Renewable Energies

– Pursuing the synergy effects of pairing nuclear and various renewable energy sources –

- Locating **HTGRs** as an energy center and paring with other renewable energy to decarbonize the entire industrial zone by supplying sources of hydrogen, heat, and electricity.
- Developing **uranium redox-flow battery** that can utilize incombustible uranium and be charged with surplus renewable energy

Sustainable

Making Nuclear Energy Sustainable

– Aiming to make nuclear energy a long-term stable energy source while meeting the new demands of building a decarbonized society –

- **Effective use** of uranium **resources** (extending the period of use from approx. 100 years to thousands of years)
- **Reducing the volume** of high-level radioactive wastes **and their toxicity, as well as recycling**

Ubiquitous

Making Nuclear Technology Ubiquitous

– Expanding the application of nuclear technology to various fields by taking advantage of its characteristics –

- Development of **cancer drugs**
- Practical application of technology to **generate electricity directly from radiation and heat** “spin-tronics”

Development of High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactors (HTGRs)

–Decarbonizing industrial zones at one sweep–

By combining HTGRs and renewable energies, JAEA can contribute to the realization of a decarbonized society by 2050.



What future are we aiming for?

JAEA intends to advance the decarbonization of industrial zones at one sweep by using high temperature heat over 900°C, extracted from HTGRs, for purposes such as hydrogen production.



Key technologies for realization

- 1 Demonstration of superior safety
- 2 Establishment of various heat utilization technologies

- Synergy: Decarbonizing industrial zones with energy generated by HTGRs, and renewable energies
- Ubiquitous: Utilizing hydrogen produced by using high temperature heat in general industrial fields

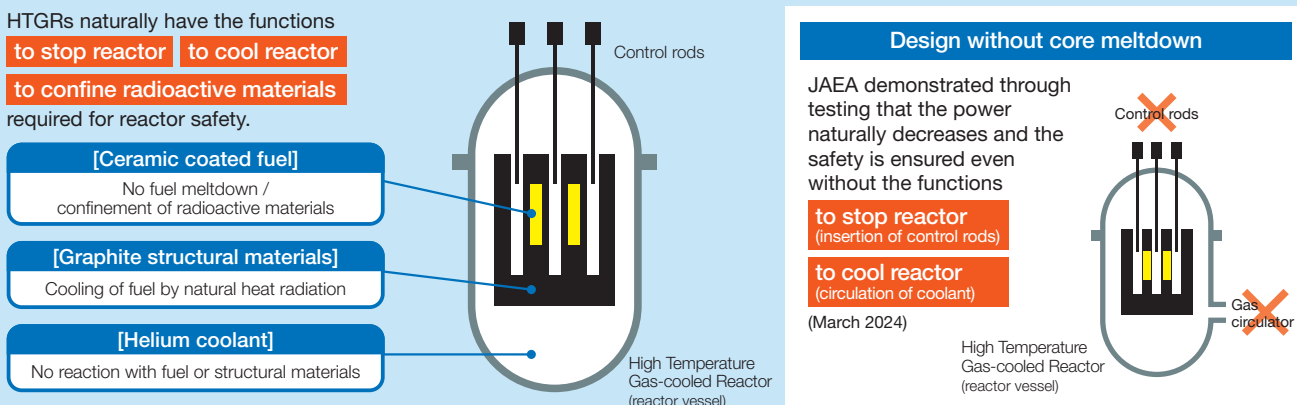
HTTR (High Temperature Engineering Test Reactor) is an HTGR (with a thermal power of 30 MW) located at the Oarai Nuclear Engineering Institute. Since HTTR is the only reactor in the world that can extract at a high temperature of 950°C to the reactor outside, heat in a wide range of temperature bands can be used. In addition, unlike light water reactors for power generation, the reactor core components (fuel, structural materials, and coolant) are designed to prevent the core meltdown and the release of large amounts of radioactive materials, thus ensuring high safety.



What are the JAEA's initiatives for the future?

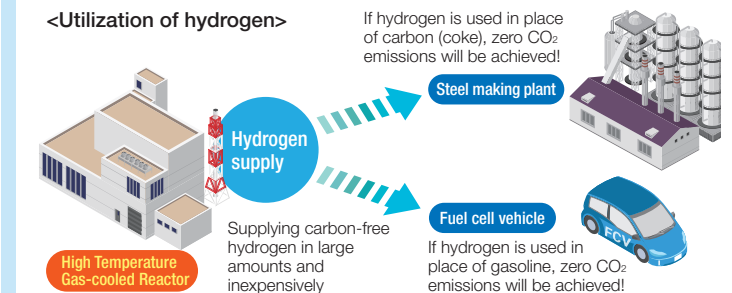
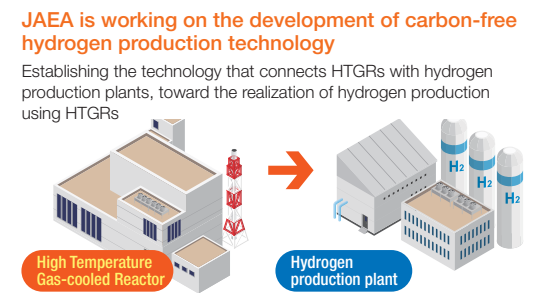
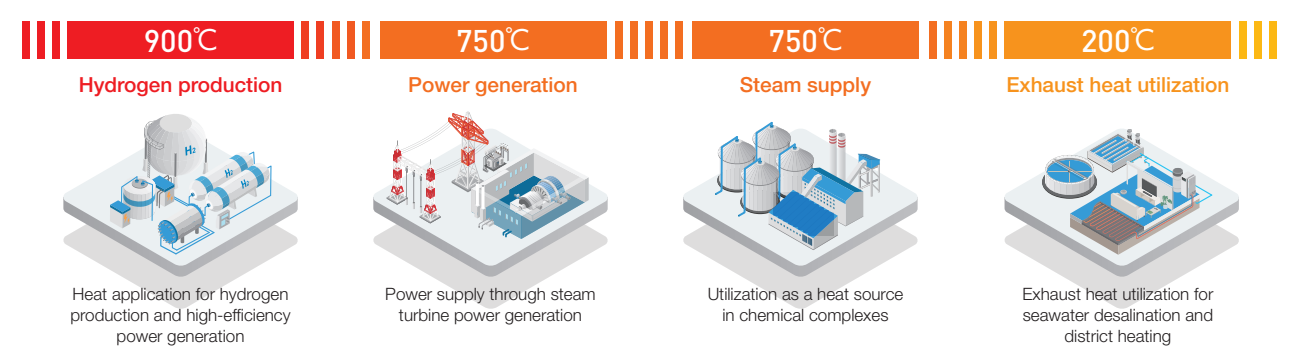
1 Demonstration of superior safety

JAEA demonstrates the safety of using HTGRs as energy supply centers in industrial zones.



2 Establishment of various heat utilization technologies

HTGRs can supply high temperature heat over 900°C, which can be used for various applications such as hydrogen production, electric power generation and seawater desalination.



Development of Fast Reactors

—Striving to make nuclear energy sustainable—

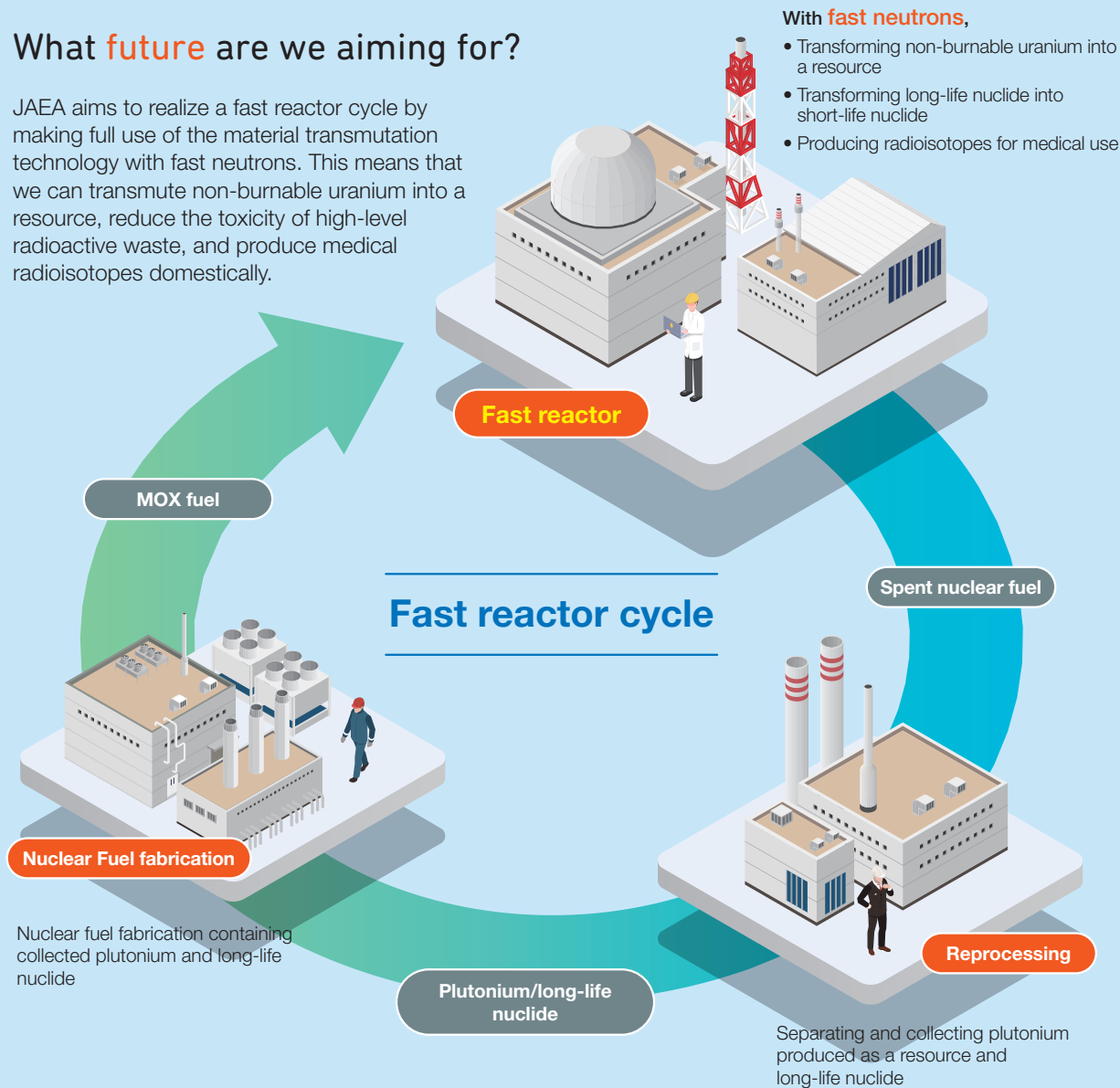


Fast reactors make it possible to effectively use of uranium resources and reduce the toxicity of high-level radioactive waste using fast neutrons*.

* High-energy neutrons

What future are we aiming for?

JAEA aims to realize a fast reactor cycle by making full use of the material transmutation technology with fast neutrons. This means that we can transmute non-burnable uranium into a resource, reduce the toxicity of high-level radioactive waste, and produce medical radioisotopes domestically.



Key technologies for realization

- 1 Establishment of a fast reactor cycle
- 2 Establishment of technology to reduce the toxicity of high-level radioactive waste
- 3 Establishment of production technology for medical radioisotopes (RIs)

- Synergy**
Optimization of power supply by combining renewable energy with fast reactors equipped with heat storage systems
- Sustainable**
Ensuring energy security
Reducing the toxicity of high-level radioactive waste
- Ubiquitous**
Stabilization of domestic supply through the production of medical radioisotopes

Experimental Fast Reactor Joyo, located at the Oarai Nuclear Engineering Institute, is the only fast reactor that can provide a fast-neutron irradiation field in the OECD countries. In addition, Joyo can be utilized for the development of new fuels or materials to be used for next-generation fast reactors, conduct of safety-related experiments, and producing medical radioisotopes.



For details, scan the code

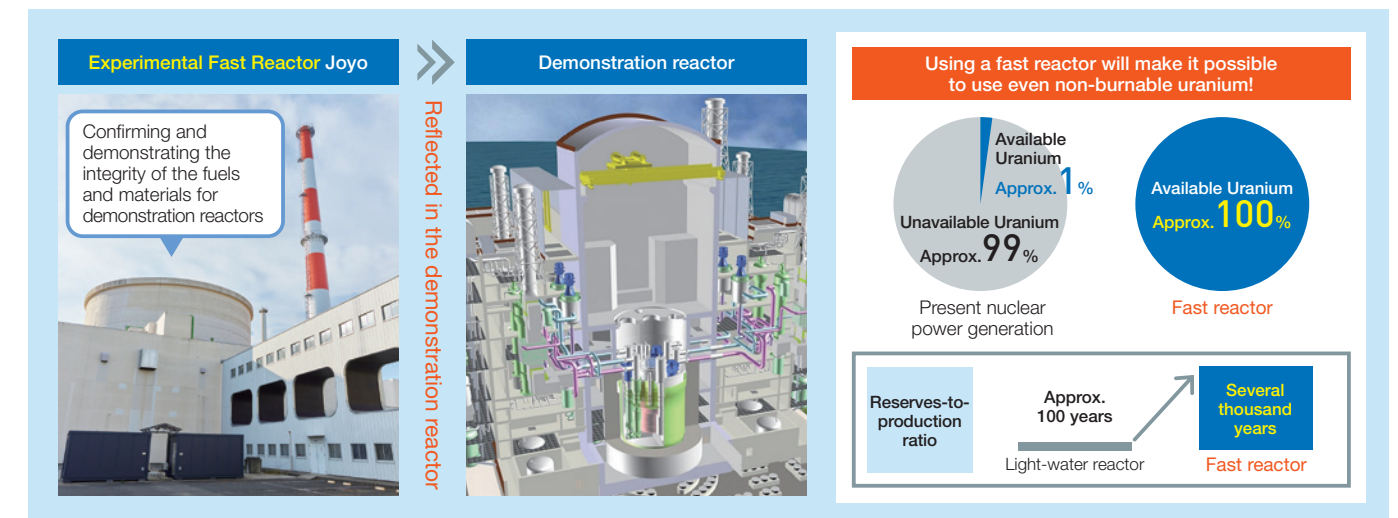


What are the JAEA's initiatives for the future?

1

Establishment of a fast reactor cycle

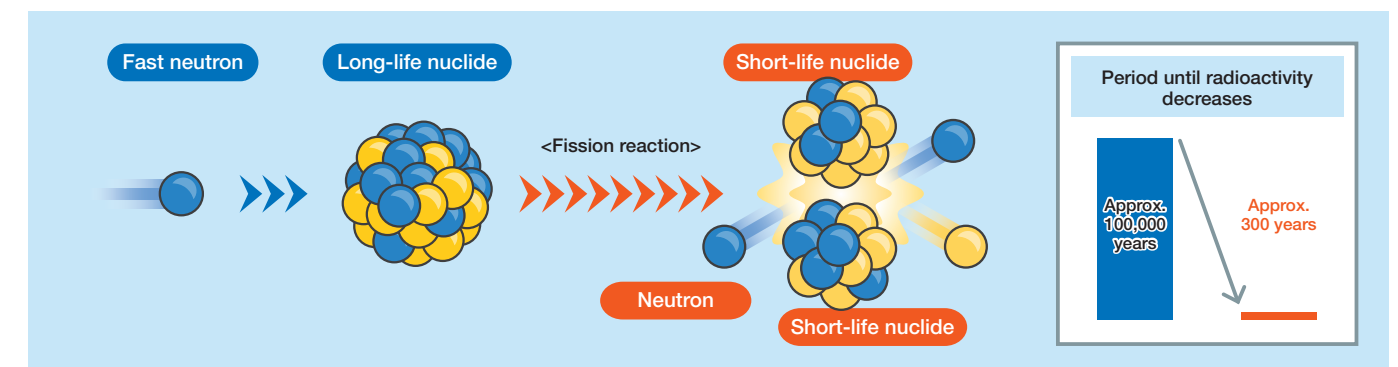
Using fast neutrons will make it possible to produce more fuel than consumed while generating electricity. In comparison to present light-water reactors, fast reactors can drastically increase the efficiency in using uranium resources.



2

Establishment of technology to reduce the toxicity of high-level radioactive waste

Irradiating fast neutrons to highly toxic Long-life nuclide, will transform it into Short-life nuclide.



3

Establishment of production technology for medical radioisotopes (RIs)

By using fast neutrons, it is possible to produce a radioisotope for medical use (actinium 225), which are expected as a therapeutic medicine for cancer.

For details, see page 13.

Utilizing Valuable Resources Lying in Japan

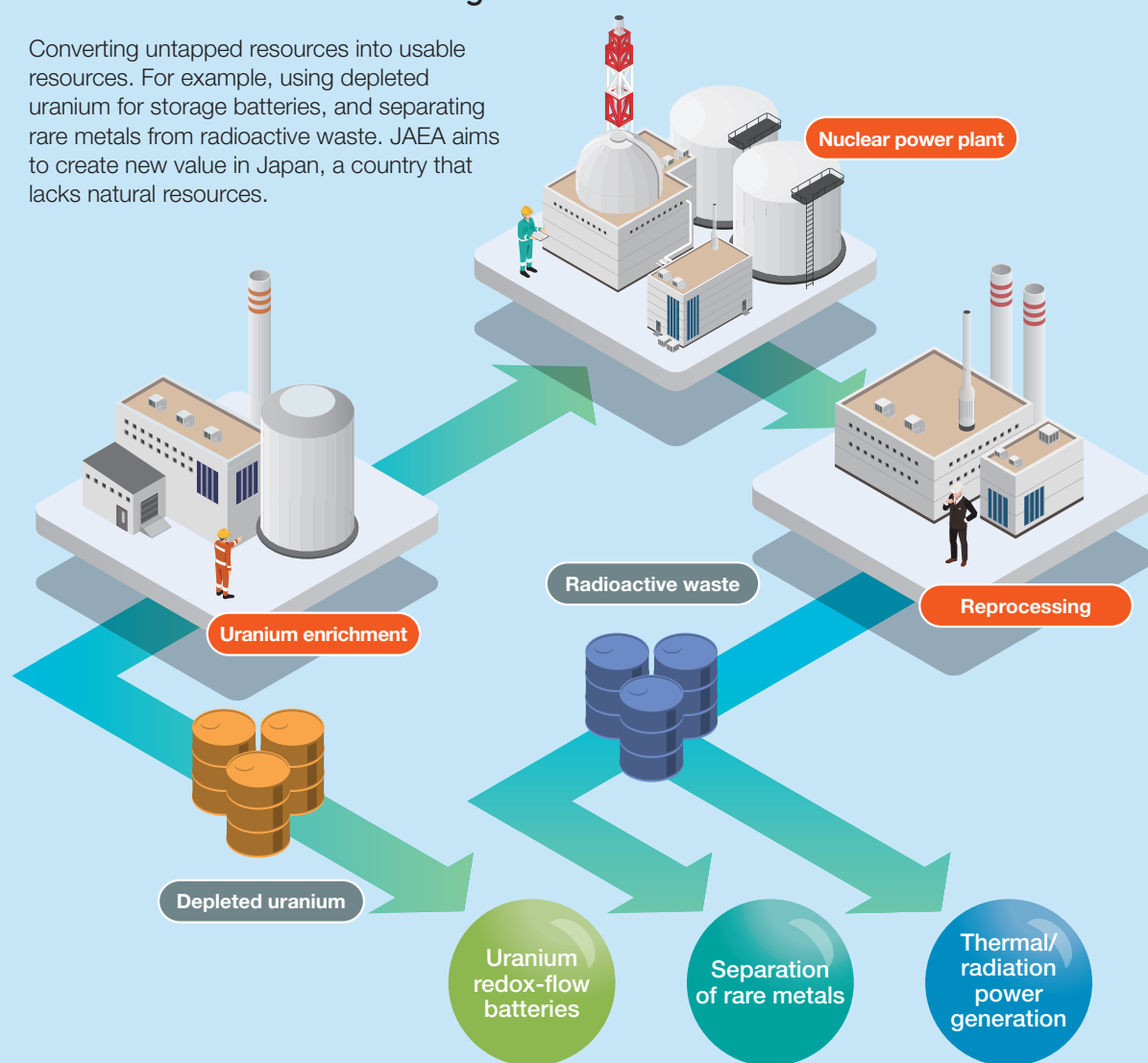
—Maximize utilization of unused resources—

Depleted uranium and radioactive waste, which are generated in the process of nuclear energy use, can be transformed into various resources.



What future are we aiming for?

Converting untapped resources into usable resources. For example, using depleted uranium for storage batteries, and separating rare metals from radioactive waste. JAEA aims to create new value in Japan, a country that lacks natural resources.



Key technologies for realization

- 1 Development of uranium redox-flow batteries
- 2 Development of separation technology for rare metals
- 3 Development of thermal/radiation power generation technology

- Synergy** Optimizing the power supply by storing surplus electricity in uranium redox-flow batteries and transmitting the stored electricity when power shortages occur
- Sustainable** Ensuring resource security by separating rare metals from radioactive waste
- Ubiquitous** Utilizing heat and radiation, generated from radioactive material, as energy sources in general industrial fields

NXR Development Center is a new organization established in April 2024 to realize JAEA's vision of "Exploration of a New Future with the Synergy of Nuclear and Renewable". To implement the JAEA's research and development achievements at the societal level, the center is working on the development of uranium redox-flow batteries, technology for separating rare metals, and technology for thermal/radiation power generation, as a flexible and agile organization.



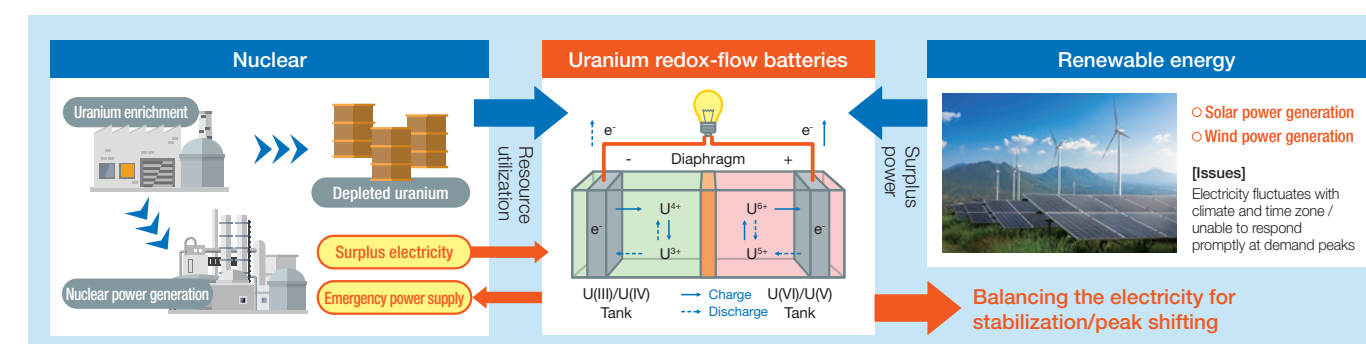
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What are the JAEA's initiatives for the future?

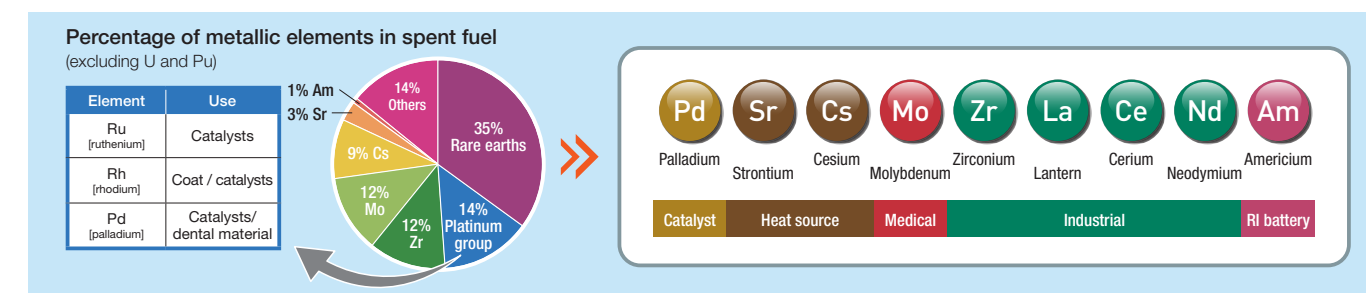
1 Development of uranium redox-flow batteries

To utilize depleted uranium, JAEA is developing high-efficiency, large-capacity storage batteries. The batteries will contribute to peak shifting and system stabilization by storing surplus electricity from nuclear power plants and renewable energies.



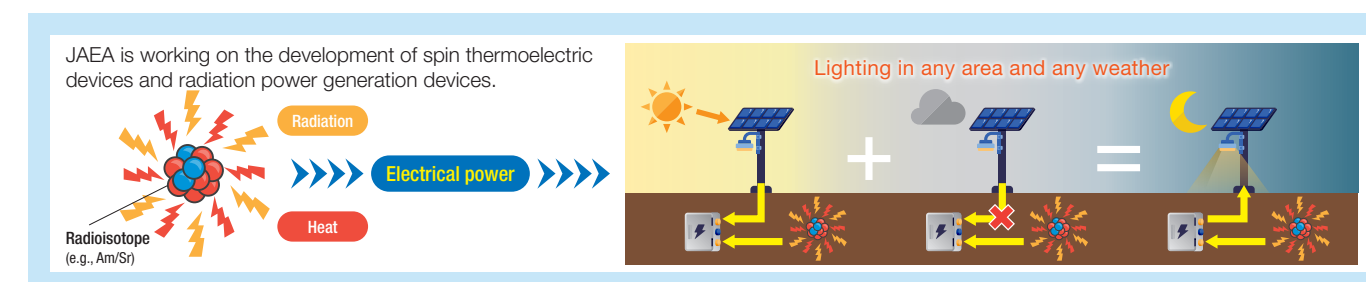
2 Development of separation technology for rare metals

JAEA aims to contribute to ensuring resource security by developing technology for separating rare metals, which have useful value in the industrial and medical fields.



3 Development of thermal/radiation power generation technology

Our goal is to develop a power source that utilizes the heat and radiation generated by radioactive materials. It can be used as a semi-permanent and maintenance-free energy source in any environment.



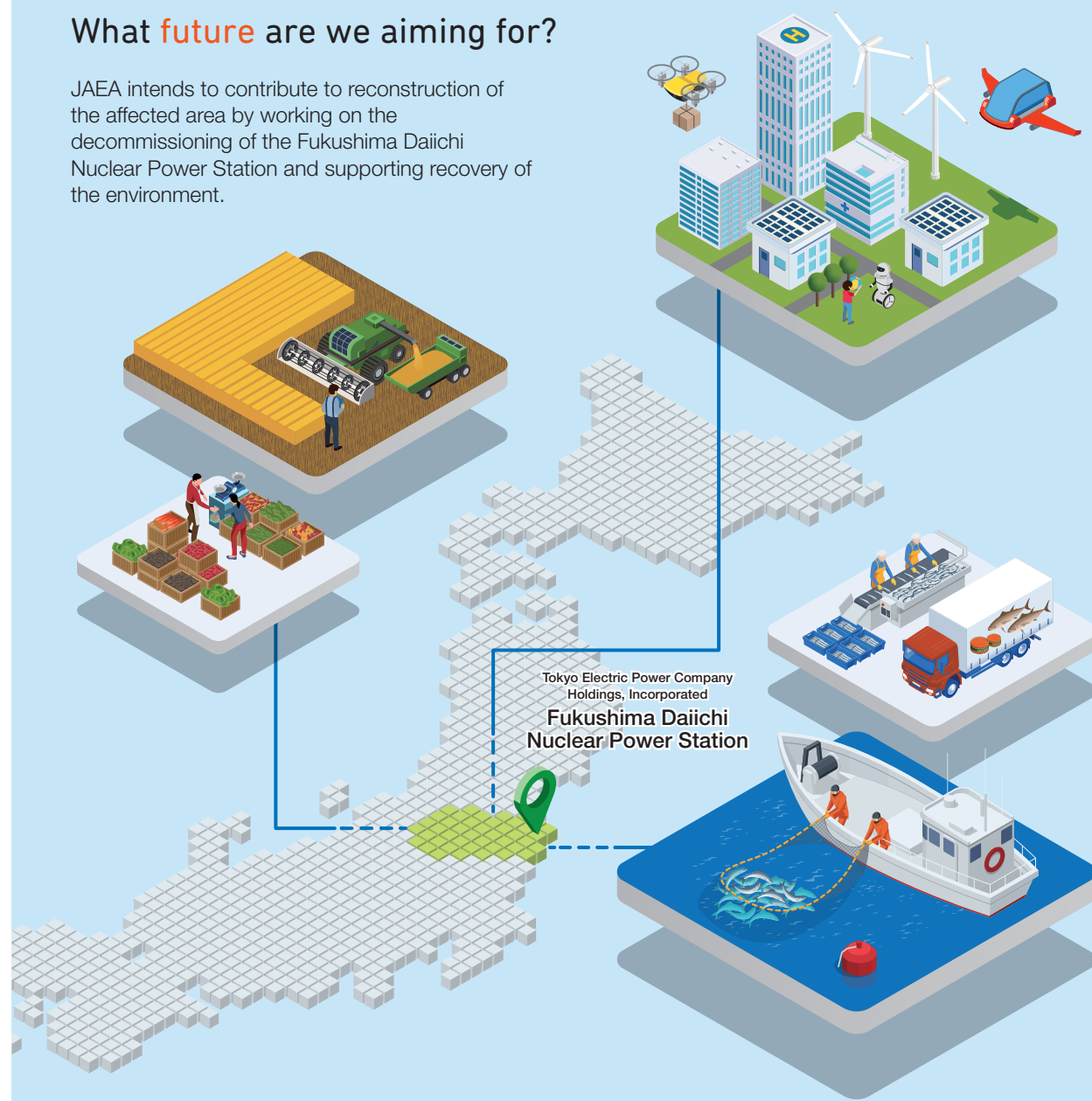
Support for Decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and Efforts Toward Environmental Restoration

—Helping to reconstruct the affected area—

JAEA intend to contribute to decommissioning the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, and restoring the surrounding environment, through the achievements of our research and development.

What future are we aiming for?

JAEA intends to contribute to reconstruction of the affected area by working on the decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and supporting recovery of the environment.



Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Incorporated
Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

Key technologies for realization

1 Supporting decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

2 Supporting restoration of the environment

Sustainable

Supporting decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station and the environment restoration

With regard to decommissioning the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, JAEA is working on research and development intended to move forward with technically difficult decommissioning processes, such as safe, reliable and prompt fuel debris retrieval. JAEA is also working on investigations and research and development that are intended to recover the environment, toward creation of an environment where the people can live safely with peace of mind.



For details, scan the code



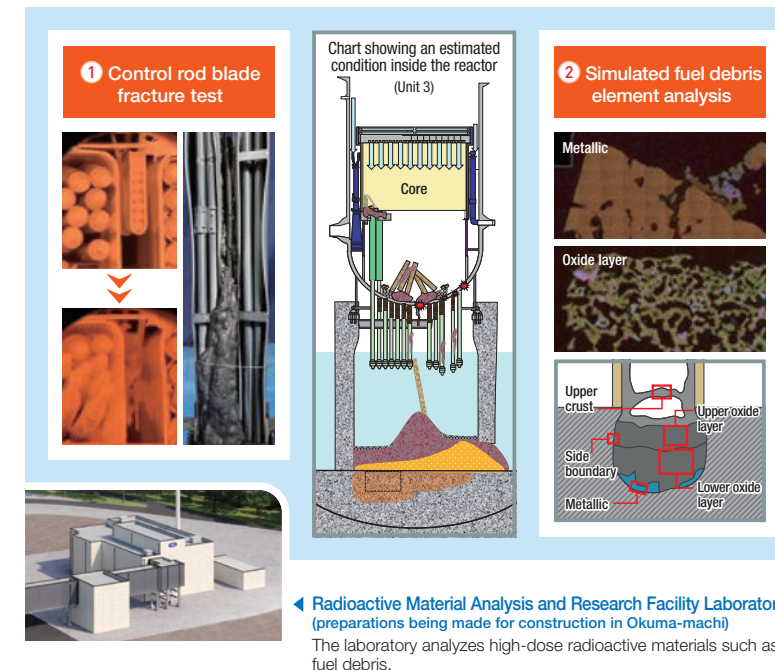
What are the JAEA's initiatives for the future?

1

Support decommissioning of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station

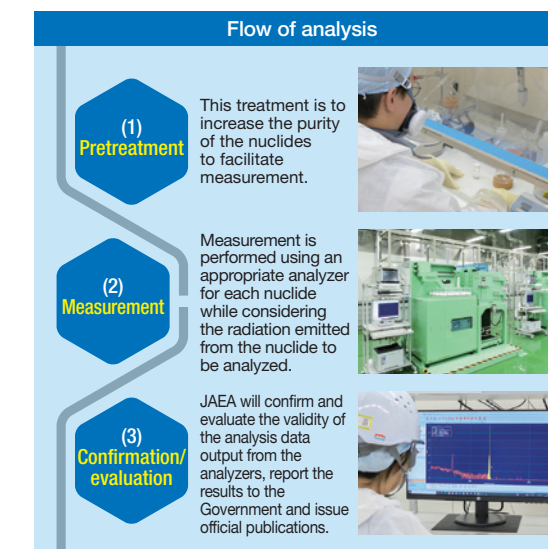
<Analysis of fuel debris>

For safe and reliable treatment and disposal of the fuel debris in the reactor, JAEA will analyze its properties. JAEA's laboratories are collaborating together on the analysis in cooperation.



<Analysis of ALPS treated water as third-party>

In accordance with the Government's policy, JAEA is conducting an analysis from the standpoint of a third party independent from Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings (third-party analysis), with the aim of ensuring highly objective and transparent measurement of radioactive materials contained in the ALPS treated water.



2

Supporting restoration of the environment

To contribute to lifting the restrictions imposed on the Evacuation Order Areas and revitalizing the agriculture, forestry, and fishery industries, JAEA is developing technologies for grasping the present state of distribution of radio-nuclides, and research on environmental dynamics and environmental analysis, in which the movements of radionuclides are examined and predicted.



Establishing a Technology for Decommissioning Nuclear Facilities

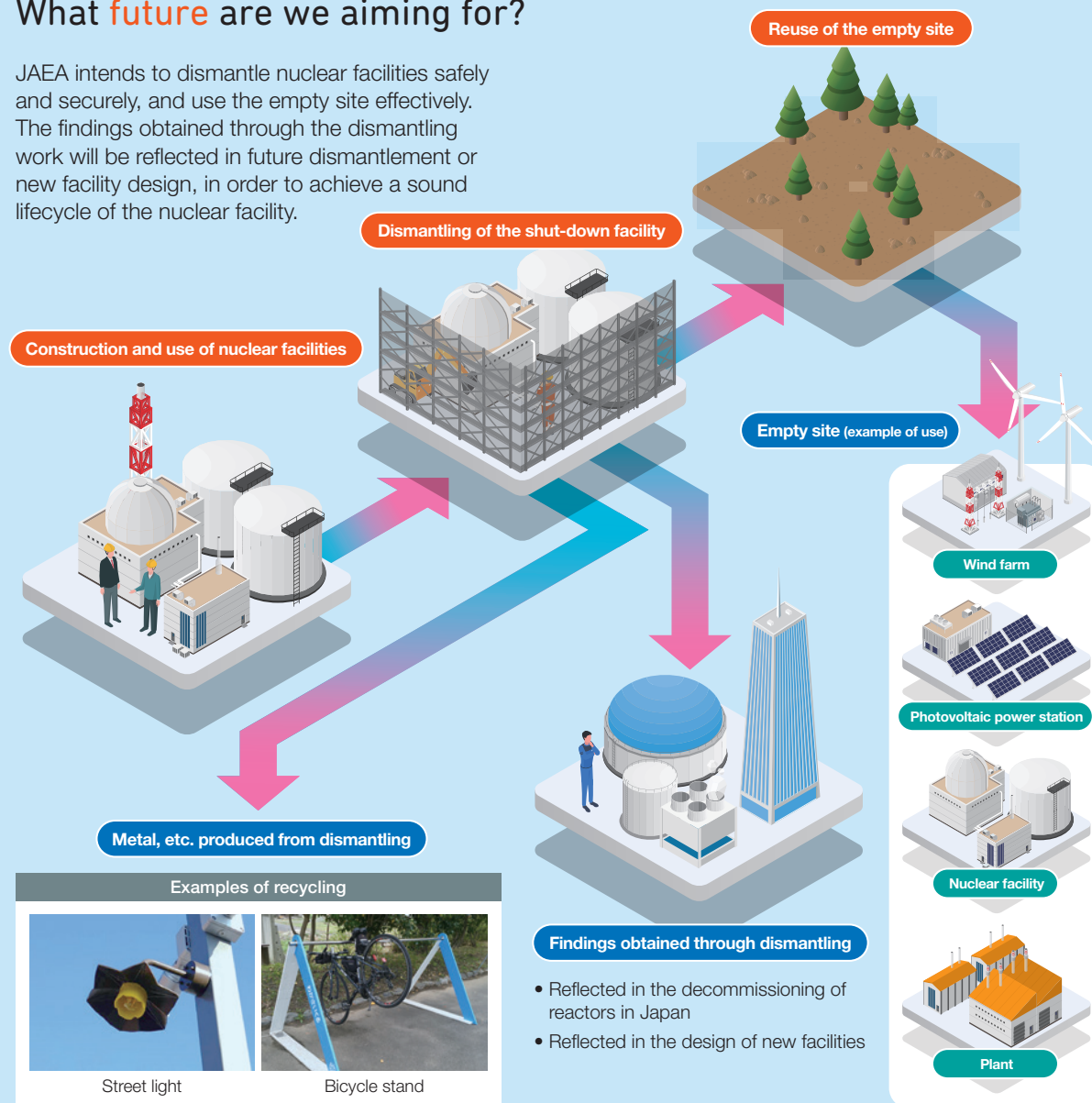
–Turning the lifecycle of nuclear facilities–



As with architecture and social infrastructure, nuclear facilities also need sound lifecycle management.

What future are we aiming for?

JAEA intends to dismantle nuclear facilities safely and securely, and use the empty site effectively. The findings obtained through the dismantling work will be reflected in future dismantlement or new facility design, in order to achieve a sound lifecycle of the nuclear facility.



Key technologies for realization

Consolidating the findings on decommissioning technologies through the decommissioning of the JAEA's facilities

Sustainable

Achieving a sound lifecycle for nuclear facilities

Ubiquitous

Recycling metals produced from decommissioning, and utilizing the recycled metals in general industrial fields

To make the use of nuclear energy sustainable, JAEA is moving forward with activities such as the decommissioning of nuclear facilities that have completed their mission, and the treatment and disposal of radioactive waste, in a safe, efficient, and rational manner. JAEA is also working on helping to realize a recycling-oriented society by promoting the reuse of matters such as clearance metal generated, for example, through the dismantling of facilities.



For details, scan the code



What are the JAEA's initiatives for the future?

Consolidating the findings on decommissioning technologies through the decommissioning of the JAEA's facilities

<Fugen Decommissioning Engineering Center>

Ahead of power utilities, JAEA has pursued the decommissioning of a water-cooled reactor. Currently, JAEA is working on the development of technologies for remote and automated devices in order to conduct the dismantling and removal of reactor peripheral equipment, and the dismantling of the reactor itself.

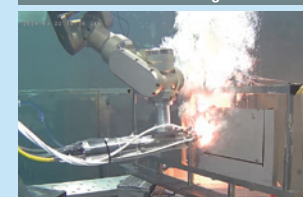


Dismantling and removal of large machineries around the reactor



Dismantling of the control-rod drive mechanism casing

Technological development related to the reactor dismantling method



Underwater laser cutting test

<Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor Monju>

JAEA is working on the decommissioning of a sodium-cooled fast reactor. Currently, JAEA is proceeding with activities such as the dismantling and removal of the electric power facilities with water and vapor systems, and the removal of the shields, etc. as a preparation for dismantling the sodium equipment.



Dismantling and removal of electric power facilities with water, vapor, and other systems



Current status of the dismantling of turbine generator

Achievement toward the transport of Monju sodium



Conclusion of a framework agreement on the processing in the United Kingdom (April 2023)

<Tokai Reprocessing Plant (TRP), Nuclear Fuel Cycle Engineering Laboratories>

JAEA is moving ahead with the decommissioning of the reprocessing facility. JAEA is working on the vitrification of high-level liquid waste, development of technology for treating low-level liquid waste, and decontamination toward the dismantling of the facility.

Approx. 70 years



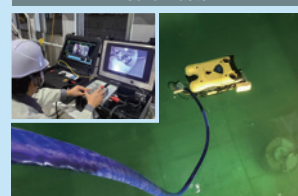
Safety improvement of high-level liquid waste storage



Vitrification high-level liquid waste



Recovery and reusage of high-level solid waste



Cementation of low-level liquid waste



<Ningyo-toge Environmental Engineering Center Center>

JAEA is engaged in the decommissioning of uranium enrichment facilities that have completed their mission, the closure of mine facilities, and uranium waste engineering and environmental researches related to these activities.

<Aomori Research and Development Center>

JAEA promotes the decommissioning of nuclear facilities on nuclear powered ship Mutsu, assay of trace elements (iodine, carbon) in environmental samples using an accelerator mass spectrometer, and development of relevant analysis technologies.

Toward the Domestic Production of Medical Radioisotopes

What are medical radioisotopes?

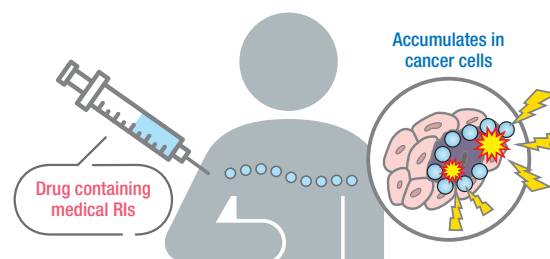
JAEA is moving ahead with research and development with a view to domestically producing medical radioisotopes (hereinafter “medical RIs”), which are used for applications such as cancer treatment and diagnostic imaging.

With the Experimental Fast Reactor **Joyo**

JAEA aims to produce actinium 225 which is expected to be effective for various cancers such as leukemia and melanoma.

R&D Precisely killing only cancer cells with alpha rays emitted from medical RIs!

The method of killing cancer cells using radiation emitted from medical RIs administered in the body is called “internal therapy.” It is expected to be highly effective for cancer treatment.



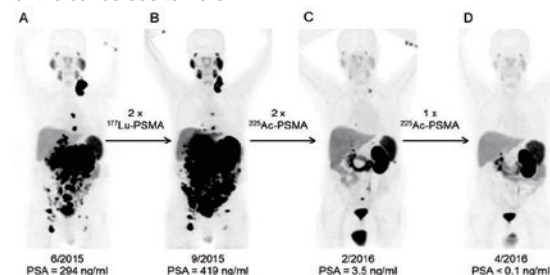
- Effective, for which no treatment method has been established such as systemic cancers
- Limited damage to the surrounding normal tissues because of short radiation range
- Unnecessary hospitalization because of short treatment period

Eagerly anticipated for practical application in Japan and abroad!

Example of application overseas The tumor in the late-stage metastatic prostate cancer has completely disappeared!

(all signs of cancer disappeared)

The administration of actinium-225 to a patient with cancer that had spread throughout the body resulted in the disappearance of the cancerous tumors.



Kratochwil, Giesel, JNM, July 7, 2016

Killing cancer cells with actinium 225 radiation

With **Japan research reactor-3**

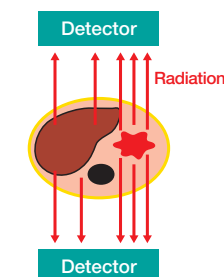
JRR-3 aims to produce molybdenum-99/technetium-99m, which is used in diagnostic imaging (SPECT examinations).

R&D Diagnosing illness by administering a drug containing medical RIs!

Japan relies on imports for medical-grade radioisotopes used in diagnostic imaging. JAEA will effectively utilize the performance of JRR-3 and promote the development of irradiation manufacturing technology for social implementation.

- Capturing an organ's functionality
 - * CT and MRI scans are intended to capture abnormalities in an organ
- Sometimes, they can detect illnesses that are hard to find with other tests
- Very few side effects

Administering the drug in the body by injection, and conducting the test with the principle as shown in the figure below.



Website of the Nuclear Medicine, Center hospital of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine
(<https://www.hosp.ncgm.go.jp/s037/010/080/010/index.html>)

Example of achievement Early diagnosis with less impact on the body!

Bone scintigraphy is known as one of the most frequently conducted tests among nuclear medicine examinations.

Example of bone scintigraphy

[Advantages]

- Functional diagnostic imaging that reflects changes in bone metabolism
- Systemic search is easy (figure on the right)
- Effective for judging the effect after treatment, and in follow-up



Website of the Nuclear Medicine, Center hospital of the National Center for Global Health and Medicine
(<https://www.hosp.ncgm.go.jp/s037/010/080/010/index.html>)

Preparation of Neutron Supply Sources

Japan Research Reactor-3 **JRR-3**

The JRR-3 has applied properties of thermal neutron to RI production and semiconductor production as industrial use, meteorite analysis to make use of the property of distinguish elements, furthermore it has applied properties of cold neutron to elucidation of biological function with analysis of polymer structure. The reactor has provided high density source of thermal and cold neutron, which has used as a wide range of fields from fundamental research to industrial fields.



Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex **J-PARC**

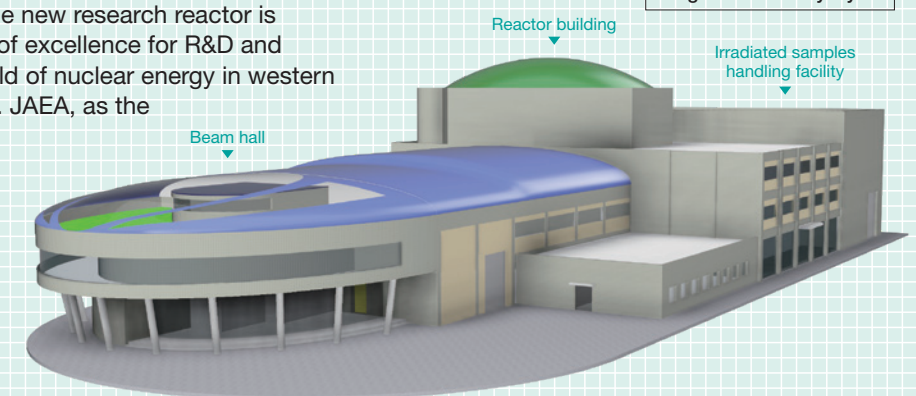
At the research complex, J-PARC is pursuing activities ranging from study of elementary particles and nuclei to research intended to elucidate mysteries surrounding the origins of the universe. J-PARC has created a variety of secondary particle beams such as neutrons, muons, neutrinos and kaons from the world's leading high-intensity proton beam accelerated almost to the speed of light, and various experiments are conducted there.



New Research Reactor

JAEA plans to establish a new research reactor in the site of “Monju,” the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor. The new research reactor is expected to play the role of the center of excellence for R&D and human resource development in the field of nuclear energy in western Japan and contributing to local society. JAEA, as the implementing body, conducts detailed design of the research reactor in collaboration with Kyoto University and the University of Fukui.

Image of the facility layout

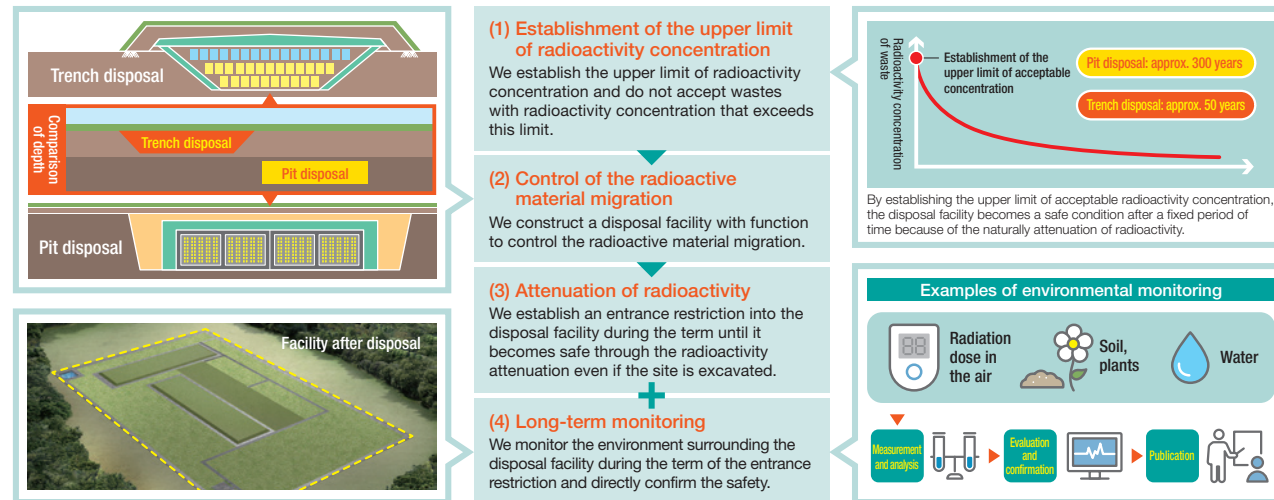


Establishment of Technology for Disposing of Radioactive Waste

Disposal of low-level radioactive waste

JAEA is engaged in disposal project of low-level radioactive waste from research and medical facilities. Currently, we are working to establish a technical base focusing on designing for the safe disposal facility.

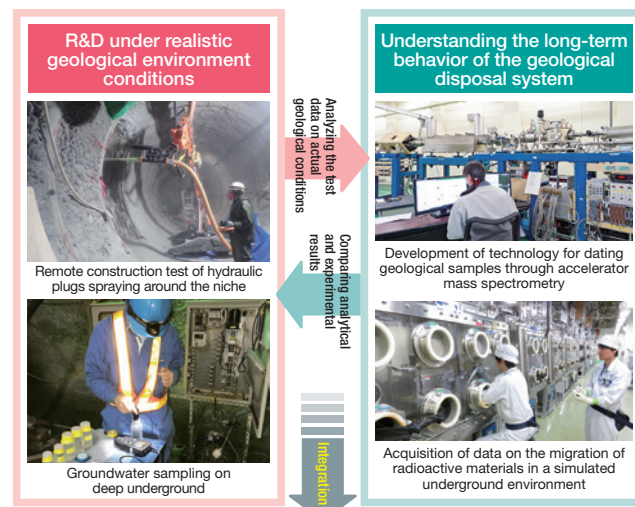
Basic policies for ensuring safety



R&D on geological disposal of high-level radioactive waste

JAEA conducts investigation and prediction of the geological environment, as well as research and development necessary for the design and safety evaluation of the geological disposal system.

R&D at JAEA



Organizational structure for geological disposal in Japan

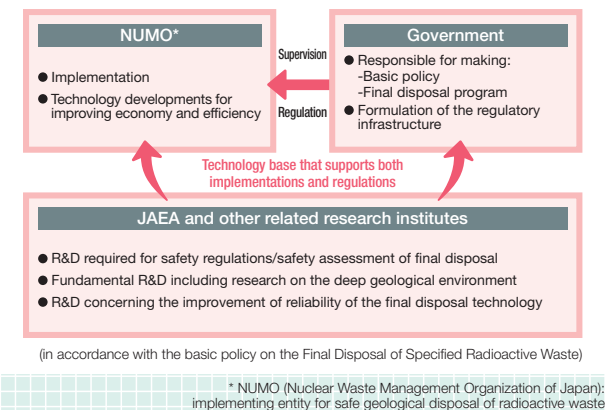
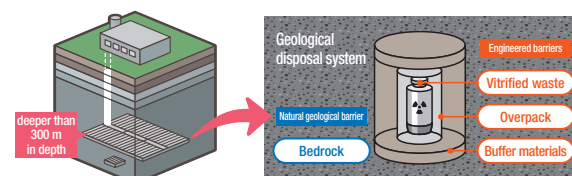


Image of geological disposal



International Efforts and Contribution

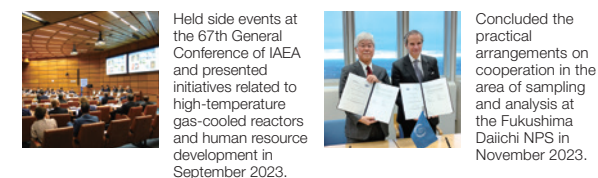
International cooperation

Toward achieving a decarbonized society by making the most of nuclear science and technology, JAEA intends to actively engage in international cooperation and thereby contribute to address a wide range of issues concerned.

Fields of collaboration with other countries and recent major progress



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)



The Generation IV International Forum (GIF)

Participated in R&D projects on Generation IV reactor systems

Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

Contributed to the international monitoring system to detect nuclear test explosions

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development/ Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA)

Advanced reactor, nuclear safety, nuclear science, decommissioning, radioactive waste management, and human resource development
Carried out the evaluation of advanced reactor performance through the reactor forced cooling loss test at 100% reactor power operation in the LOFC project using HTTR in March 2024.

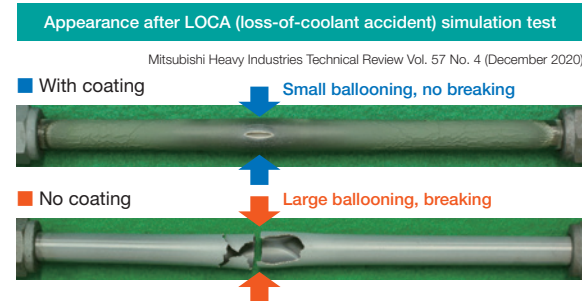
International Science and Technology Center (ISTC)

Participated in cooperative R&D projects

Introducing Our Initiatives 5

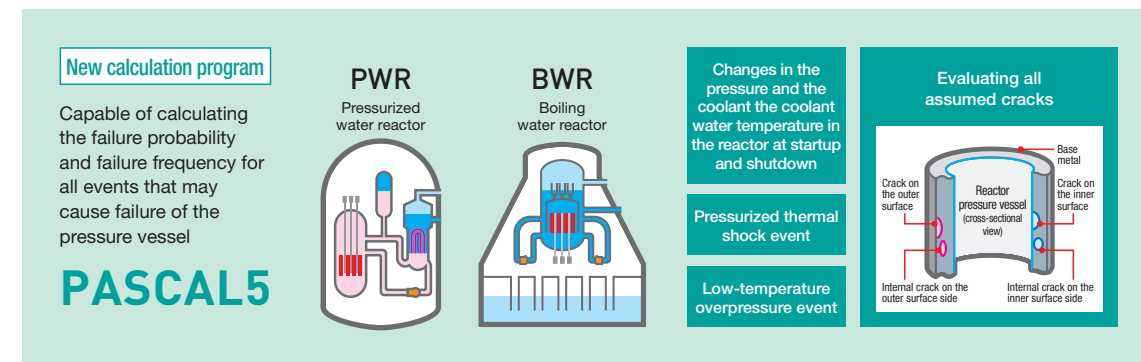
Research on Light-water Reactors

JAEA is pressing ahead with basic and fundamental research and development, which is intended to accelerate the development of ATF (accident tolerant fuel) elements that is less subject to severe accidents and would mitigate the impact of severe accidents. In addition, JAEA plays the role of coordinating the development in Japan to give a boost to development by manufacturers.



Safety Research

The integrity assessment of the reactor pressure vessel applying the probabilistic approach is expected to available quantitatively evaluating the safety margin in the existing evaluation method, and supporting more rational maintenance plans.



Introducing Our Initiatives 6

Fostering Human Resources for the Future of Nuclear Energy

For domestic human resource development, JAEA hold various training courses, cooperate in university education, and conduct human resource development activities in collaboration with related domestic organizations. For international human resource development, JAEA invite engineers and other professionals from Asian countries, and train them to become lecturers who will be responsible for human resource development in their home countries.



Practical training on dose measurement for engineers responsible for the safe use of nuclear energy

Introducing Our Initiatives 7

Strengthening Nuclear Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security

With the aim of realizing a world without nuclear weapons and nuclear terrorism, JAEA is working on activities in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear security, such as technological development, policy researches, support for human resource development, and support for the international verification regime of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

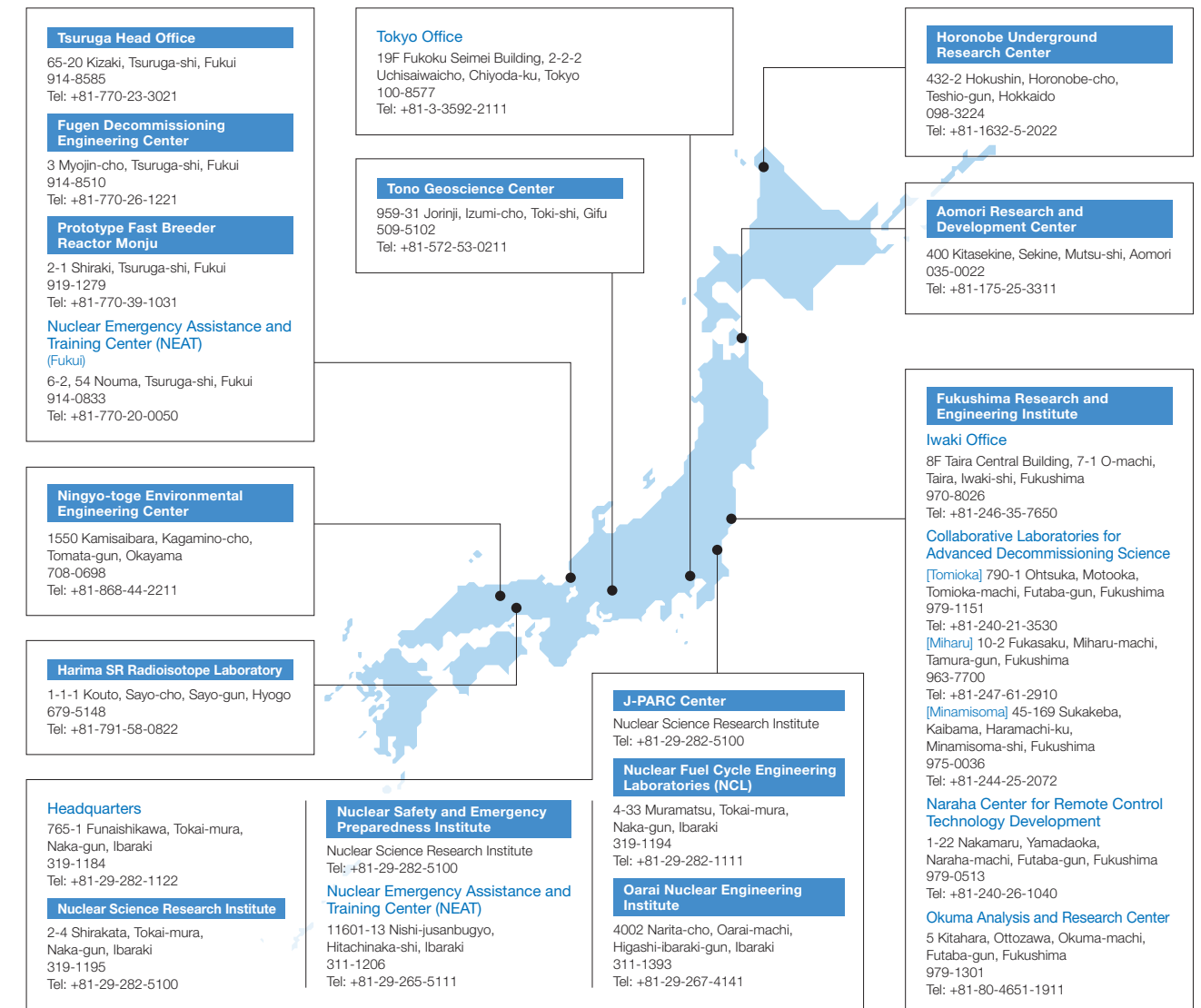


Experience-based exercise on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear security using a VR system

Location of R&D Sites

[as of November 2024]

● Number of staff: 3,090 people (end of fiscal 2023) ● Budget: 151.1 billion yen (fiscal 2023)





<https://www.jaea.go.jp/english/>



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