

President's Address  
at a Welcoming Ceremony for Recruits of FY 2024

It is my great pleasure to welcome you, new colleagues, on the first day of the new fiscal year. JAEA is an organization that has a role to realize the government's policies on nuclear energy through implementation of research and development activities.

The government has announced a major policy to achieve carbon neutrality within the country by 2050 and to maximize the use of nuclear energy while ensuring safety as its prerequisite.

In line with the government's policy, JAEA established the new vision last April consisting of the following three areas:

1. Synergy: pursuing synergy of nuclear and renewable energies;
2. Sustainable : making nuclear energy itself sustainable; and
3. Ubiquitous: applying nuclear technology widely to society.

Opportunities for innovation are brimming in these three areas. In other words, these objectives can not be achieved without innovation. You will be expected to fully demonstrate your abilities through your career in one of these areas.

JAEA is currently in the process of organizational change. We are optimizing the structure and changing various work processes so that each employee can fully demonstrate his/her capabilities in their respective fields. In this context, I would like to establish a system in which all JAEA staff members with various knowledge and expertise can share the same vision and work as one to achieve our goals beyond boundaries among job classifications, such as research, engineering, or administrative work.

In addition, realizing a Net Zero society utilizing nuclear energy is a global effort. While JAEA has been deepening its relationship with research institutes and government organizations in the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and other countries, there will inevitably be an explosion of nuclear technology-related innovations in the world in the future. We must keep up with this trend of the world. If we fail to keep challenging new research and development every day, we will be left behind the rest of the world in no time. The clock of nuclear energy was once stopped by the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, but now it is moving at an impressive speed as if to make up for the delay. I hope that all of you will catch this trend and advance even further ahead.

In this sense, you are very lucky. The stage is ready for you at JAEA to bet your life and

unleash your full potential. However, I would like you to note the two sides that nuclear energy has. Nuclear energy can provide tremendous value to human society if we use it wisely, but it can also bring unimaginable disasters to society when we fail to handle it appropriately.

We learned it the hard way through the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS. In fact, the public opinion on the use of nuclear energy is divided in our country. However, considering our significant task to pass on Japanese society in a healthy way to the next generation, the use of nuclear energy is indispensable for conducting the task.

To this end, we must listen closely to the opinions of society, attain sound communication with society, and strive to be accepted by society. Public trust cannot be gained overnight. We can achieve trust and acceptance of society only through continuous conscious efforts made by each and every one of us to avoid accidents and disasters as well as to keep promises. We can do nothing without the understanding of society, especially the local communities. I'd like to highlight this and ask you all to keep it in mind from today on.

In closing, I would like to offer a few tips as a senior in life. Simply, here are the three abilities you will need to use step-by-step through your career:

1. How to Think: the ability to see through the essence of issues and envision a path to their resolutions;
2. How to Communicate: the ability to accurately communicate your ideas to relevant parties and gain their understanding; and
3. How to Execute: the ability to surely execute your ideas with responsibility in the end, on top of "how to Think" and "how to Communicate".

Most of you have just graduated from schools, while some have already been active in society. However, that's not really an issue. The point is that if you want to accomplish anything in a large organization like JAEA, the shortest and the most effective way is to hone the three abilities I mentioned above. I believe that you will be able to achieve great accomplishments and bring fulfillment to your life only by making your best efforts in any time and never looking away from your goals, instead of just doing your daily jobs.

Here in JAEA, there are various opportunities ready for you to play active roles. Do not hesitate and step forward with confidence toward your clear goals.

April 1, 2024  
KOGUCHI Masanori  
President