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Japan's energy policy and the future direction of Monju and related research

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Nuclear Energy Policy of New Administration (1/2)

Direction of Nuclear Energy Policy

- Prime Minister's instruction to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (January 25, 2013)

To review from scratch “Innovative Strategy for Energy and the Environment” decided by the former administration and to establish a robust and responsible energy policy from various perspectives, including stable of energy, reduction of energy cost.

Cf. Former Administration's Policy on Energy and the Environment

- Three Pillars of the Strategy
 - Realization of a society not dependent on nuclear power
 - Realization of a green energy revolution
 - Stable supply of energy
- The Government of Japan will mobilize all possible policy resources to such a level as to even enable zero operation of nuclear power plants in the 2030's.

Nuclear Energy Policy of New Administration (2/2)

PM Abe's comments on Monju

- Summary of Prime Minister Press Conference on the Second Anniversary of Great East Japan Earthquake – Extracts - (March 11, 2013)

First of all, we have yet to begin investigations to select the location for final processing of high-level radioactive waste. The central government intends to take responsibility for bolstering efforts toward selecting the processing site and will deliberate toward that end.

Managing spent nuclear fuel is a challenge common throughout the world. We intend to continue to tackle this issue, while working to form ties with countries around the world, because Japan has nuclear fuel cycle technology that is sophisticated even by world standards, including Monju and the Rokassho reprocessing plant.

Establishment of an Expert Panel under MEXT Aimed at Developing a Research Plan for Monju

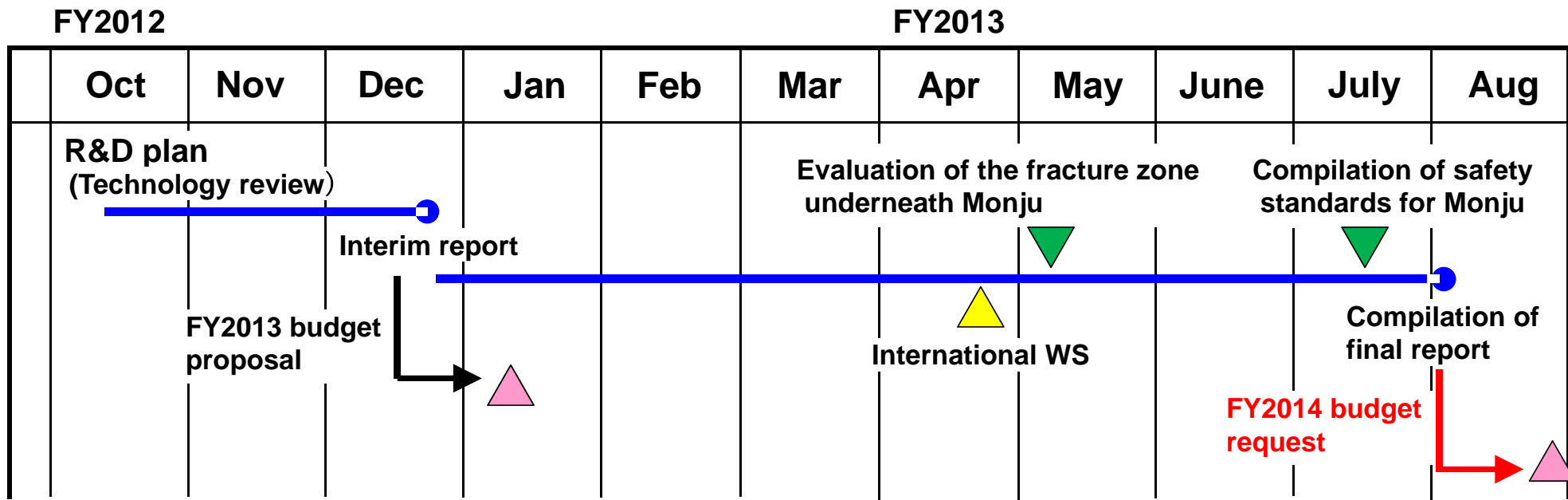
- MEXT set up an expert panel last October to develop a new research plan for Monju.

Members of the Monju Expert Panel

- Hajimu YAMANA (Chair) Research Reactor Institute Kyoto University
- Fumio INADA Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry
- Marie OSHIMA The University of Tokyo
- Naoto KASAHARA The University of Tokyo
- Takanori KITADA Osaka University
- Ken Kurosaki Osaka University
- Yasuyoshi NAGAI Institute for Materials Research, Tohoku University
- Tomoko MURAKAMI The Institute of Energy Economics, Japan
- Akira YAMAGUCHI Osaka University

Schedule of Developing a Research Plan for Monju

- The expert panel prepared an interim report last December, and a **detailed research plan will be completed by around this coming summer.**
- With having this international workshop, the panel will be able to draw up a plan that incorporates the international research utilizing Monju.

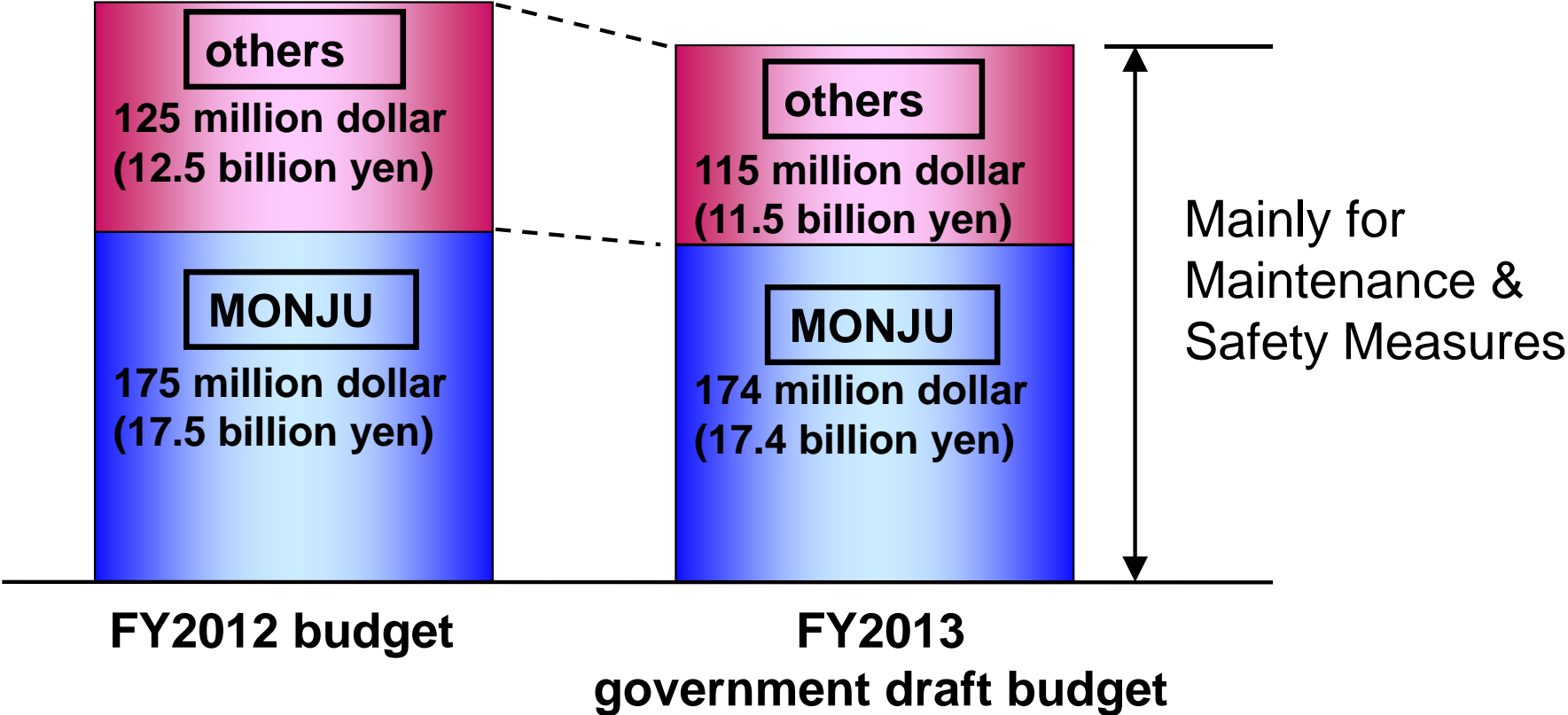


MEXT's budget for Fast Reactor R&D

Total: 300 million dollar
(30 billion yen)

Total: 289 million dollar
(28.9 billion yen)

*The government will take care of additional expenses necessary for operation by FY2013 supplementary budget.



(1 dollar = 100 yen)

Interim Report of the Monju Research Plan Expert Panel

(December, 2012)

Objectives and outlines of the Interim Report

- The objectives of the report are **to identify the direction for the Monju research plan**, to develop near-term plan, and to organize the issues which require future discussion.
- The Expert Panel emphasized that research using Monju should be conducted for
 - (1) **Compiling the results of FBR development**,
 - (2) **Reducing the amount and toxic level of radioactive waste**, and
 - (3) **Strengthening the safety of FBRs**.

Future issues for consideration

- How long will it take to achieve a goal of the Monju research plan?
- What is the ideal form of a research and development framework in order to implement research?
- What is the ideal way of public relations to present research results?
- **What kind of international collaborative research should be conducted?**

Potential Collaborative Research Using Monju

WS's targets of potential collaborative research

- ❑ Monju as testing facilities (natural circulation assessment test, etc.)
Ex: Benchmark tests using test data
- ❑ Monju as a venue to share operation experience
Ex: Provide operational and maintenance data
- ❑ Monju as irradiation facilities
Ex: Materials irradiation