

**International Workshop on International Collaboration Research using Monju**  
**Opening Remarks by Co-Presidents of the Workshop**  
**(April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Fukui, Japan)**

**1. Introduction**

Good morning. My name is Kanji Fujiki, and I am the Deputy Minister for Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. On behalf of the host organizations, I would first like to express my gratitude to everyone who has come here today – some from very long distances – to participate in this International Workshop on International Collaboration Research using Monju. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) particularly Dr. Tsujikura, the Executive Vice President, for their cooperation in co-sponsoring this workshop.

**2. Objectives of the Conference**

The principal objective of this workshop is to make the international collaborative research using the Monju reactor more beneficial throughout the world. The Japanese government is now reviewing its nuclear and energy policies in light of the 2011 accident at Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. As a part of that review, MEXT (the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) set up an expert panel last October to develop 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. The expert panel emphasized that three particularly important research areas are; (1) compiling the results of FBR development, (2) reducing the amount and toxic level of radioactive waste, and (3) strengthening the safety of FBRs. We expect that the panel will be able to draw up a plan that incorporates the international research utilizing Monju.

During the morning session, we will hear presentations from each country and organization on their country's policies and programs for Fast Reactor development and their expectations for international collaborative research making use of the data gained from Monju. After lunch, based on the morning session's presentations, we will have broader-based discussions on points related to joint international research using Monju.

**3. Closing**

Finally, we hope to have your active participation in the discussions to realize our common objective of strengthening our international collaboration for fast reactor research and development. With that in mind, I would like to officially open this international workshop on International Collaboration Research using Monju.

(End)