Future Management Policy and Actions for R&D on Fast Reactor Cycle

Following the decision of the Inter-Ministerial Council for Nuclear Power and the instruction of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, JAEA will carry out decommissioning of Monju safely and steadily. Toward the commercialization of fast reactors in the future, JAEA will implement activities on the development of fast reactors as follows, as the core entity with the responsibility of R&D in this field in enhanced collaboration with related organizations, prioritizing ensuring safety and contributing to the growth of the local economy.

1 Safe and steady decommissioning of Monju

For the safe and steady decommissioning of Monju, JAEA will take the following actions for the time being.

- Drawing up a basic plan for decommissioning by April 2017, and working to complete the removal of the fuel from the core in around five and a half years from the adoption of the said basic plan to reduce safety risk
- Quickly establishing the structure and organization for the implementation of decommissioning which enables to bring together relevant expertise in and out of Japan while revising safety regulations

2 Promotion of R&D and measures to be taken for a new plan to develop the region as a R&D center for the commercialization of fast reactor and its fuel cycle (Fast Reactor Cycle).

JAEA will carry out the following actions for the time being as a core entity for the R&D of the Fast Reactor Cycle of Japan.

- Making proactive contribution to the drafting of a strategy roadmap on the development of the Fast Reactor cycle based on technical knowledge JAEA has accumulated
- Restructuring the organization of the Sector of Fast Reactor Research and Development of JAEA and making an effort for earliest restarts of “Joyo” and “Plutonium Fuel Production Facility (PFPF)”, as well as withdrawing an application for the license of fuel fabrication at PFPF submitted on the promise of fabrication of new fuels for Monju
- Examining utilization of Monju during periods of transition and decommissioning and an R&D plan for sodium test facilities, and reflecting the result in the roadmap
- Re-establishing centers that serves as a basis for R&D and human resource
development in the field of fast reactors in Ibaraki pref. and Fukui pref., and working in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to build a new research reactor at Monju site in Fukui pref.

3 Contribution to local economic matters
- Implementing new research of nuclear energy and human resource development utilizing the Monju site and enhancing international industry-academia-government cooperation activities in decommissioning technology development, etc. to contribute to local employment and local economic development.

4 Gaining an understanding of local communities
- In proceeding with future efforts including the projects mentioned above, making maximum efforts to gain an understanding of the public including local communities by giving the highest priority to safety in accordance with appropriate regulation of Nuclear Regulation Authority of Japan.