

Panel: Challenges and Opportunities after the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster (Regency Room)

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 / 17:00-18:15

Talking Points for: Suzuki Tatsujiro , Japan Atomic Energy Commission

- Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant accident has become one of the worst accidents in nuclear history and it is not completely over yet. Still about 160,000 people are not living in their own homes and are concerned about their health, future life and future of their homeland.
- Total liability (compensation) amount is estimated to be at least 5.8 trillion yen (\$70 billion). It will take at least 30 years to clean up and decommission the Fukushima Dai-ichi site.
- Only two (out of 50) nuclear power plants are operating, but due to energy conservation/efficiency improvement efforts no power shortage occurred during last summer peak. Still at least 3 trillion yen (\$40 billion) was paid in 2012 more for fossil fuel than in 2011..
- Lessons from the Fukushima accident on risk management should be shared among regional and global players. Enhancing safety and security culture is not enough. Enhancing “resilience” of nuclear energy system is also an essential.
 - *“The Investigation Committee is convinced of the need of a paradigm shift in the basic principles of disaster prevention programs for such a huge system, whose failure may cause enormous damage.”*- from the Interim Report by the Gov’t investigation committee (Dec. 2011)
 - One specific issue is “spent fuel storage.” “Thinking unthinkable” is essential in preparing for the emergency.
- Lack of adequate regulatory governance resulted in the fact that the Japanese nuclear industry has fallen behind international standards in meeting the challenges of a tsunami and severe accident.
- De-facto international standards can be achieved through sharing the best practices by non-governmental approach, such as:
 - World Institute for Nuclear Security (WINS)
 - Nuclear Exporters’ Principles of Conducts

* The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.