

Remarks by Ambassador of Japan Makoto Yamanaka
at Polish MoE-JICC Joint Seminar on Nuclear Power
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Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I am so pleased and honored to join you today in this special seminar on nuclear power. Let me first welcome you all to this seminar and offer my congratulations to the seminar organizers, the Ministry of Economy of Poland and the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum (JAIF) International Cooperation Center (JICC).

The energy cooperation is one of the important priorities between Poland and Japan. This was agreed upon when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Warsaw one and a half years ago. Last November, President Komorowski was about to make an official trip to Japan, which was unfortunately postponed. If the President had been to Japan, he must have endorsed the significance of our bilateral energy cooperation. And nuclear power certainly plays an important role both in our respective national energy policies and in our bilateral cooperation.

Nuclear policy is now faced with a number of challenges: how it should be placed in the overall energy

policy or energy mix, how it should contribute to the energy security and sustainable growth, how it should ensure its safety, how it should tackle the global warming, how it should manage nuclear back-end treatment, and how we could enhance public acceptance. Poland and Japan are taking up these common challenges through government and private initiatives. Our two countries can learn a lot each other.

In Japan, after the disastrous Fukushima accident, the strong safety standards have been introduced by the independent Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA). The Government of Japan adopted its long/medium-term energy policy last year and nuclear power was recognized as an important base-load power source. A best energy mix including nuclear power is now being discussed and expected to be announced later this year.

Poland on its part continues to pursue its nuclear program and nuclear power generation. We highly appreciate the Polish aspiration for the nuclear program and we are encouraged by the public support thereof as high as 58% in Poland. Japan, both government and industry, stands ready to further its cooperation with Poland.

This seminar will provide a very useful venue for us to compare notes and experiences and further the cooperation in the area of nuclear program. We have with us today most experienced experts and professionals as distinguished seminar speakers. I look forward to a lively discussion in the course of this seminar.

Thank you very much.