

The 22<sup>nd</sup> CEG Meeting  
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## **Japan's Cooperation for Dismantling Decommissioned Nuclear Submarines in the Russian Far East**

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Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **Preface**

Considering my current position, I should be neutral in my statement. However, I am a sole participant from Japan in this meeting. With your permission, I would like to deliver my speech on behalf of the Government of Japan.

Over the last several years, Japan has been attending this meeting as an observer, but Japan is now being accepted as a fullfledged member of CEG. From now onward, Japan will participate in various activities as a full member and your continuous cooperation is highly appreciated.

Since our last 21st Meeting held in Bruges, Belgium in 2007, one year has already passed. I am happy to introduce our last year's activities under the Japan-Russia cooperation framework.

## **1. Dismantlement of Nuclear Submarines (“Star of Hope”)**

On the occasion of then President Putin visit to Japan on November 21, 2005, then Prime Minister Koizumi and President Putin agreed to dismantle additional five decommissioned nuclear submarines.

Of the five submarines, the first Victor-I class submarine (Hull No. 614), was dismantled in August, 2007.

Concerning the three Victor-III class nuclear submarines, the Financing and Work Contracts on dismantlement were signed on August 2, 2007, and the first one out of the three, Hull No. 333, is now under dismantlement. The other two submarines will be dismantled in order, when the dockyard becomes available.

Regarding the remaining submarine, Charlie-I class submarine, the Financing and Work Contracts were concluded on January 24, 2008, and dismantlement works are already commenced at NERC in Kamchatka. All dismantling works which Japan has assisted to date were carried out at the “Zvezda” Shipyard located in Bolshoy Kamen, outskirts of Vladivostok, and, therefore, the dismantling of Charlie-I is the first project in Kamchatka under the Japan-Russia cooperation framework.

In connection with Japan-Russia cooperation, Australia and the Republic of Korea (ROK) made financial contributions to the dismantlement of Victor-I Class nuclear submarine (Hull No. 614), while ROK and New Zealand rendered financial assistance to the dismantlement of Victor-III Class nuclear submarine (Hull No. 333). I am very much honored to introduce their cooperation on this occasion.

Their financial contributions are their responses to the appeal of the G8 Global Partnership and indicate their strong commitment to G8GP. Their contributions are deserving of our high esteem and sincere gratitude.

## **2. Cooperation with the Long Term Storage Facility for the Reactor Compartment Units of Dismantled Nuclear Submarines**

Russia is now constructing the long term storage facility for the reactor compartment units of dismantled submarines which have been temporarily stored in Razboinik Bay since 1992.

Considering safe storage of reactor compartment units, it is indeed appropriate to keep them in the onshore facility. From this point of view, Japan decided to cooperate with the Project by supplying one floating dock, two jib cranes and one tugboat.

We have now completed our basic design study on these three items and I hope the Implementing Arrangement on the Project will be signed in near future.

It is our sincere hope that safe management of reactor compartment units shall be established as soon as possible through the earliest possible operation of the Facility.

## **3. Post Evaluation Study on “Suzuran” (“Landysh”)**

“Suzuran” is a floating facility for processing of low-level liquid radioactive waste. In 1993, it became obvious that Russian Navy dumped radioactive waste generated from dismantlement of nuclear submarine into the Sea of Japan and therefore the Facility was provided with a view to protecting the environment of the Sea in November, 2001.

“Suzuran” has enough throughput capacity and has already processed approximately 3800m<sup>3</sup> liquid radioactive waste generated from dismantlement of nuclear submarines in the Russian Far East.

Since the provision of “Suzuran”, even a drop of liquid radioactive waste has never been dumped into the Sea of Japan, and therefore, significance of our

cooperation has been substantiated and our cooperation is highly appreciated by all authorities concerned.

Our experts are now engaged in their post evaluation study on the Facility from April to September. We need a little more time for their final report. However, it is already confirmed that provision of “Suzuran” has greatly contributed not only to the environmental protection in the Far East region, but also to the promotion of the current cooperation, which also resulted in giving a great impact on the establishment of relevant Russian laws and regulations consistent with the international standards.

#### **4. Future Cooperation between Japan and Russia**

On April 15, 2008, our Foreign Minister Koumura had a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov.

On that occasion, Foreign Minister Lavrov expressed his appreciation to the Japanese cooperation to our joint endeavour to date. And both Ministers welcomed the prospect that the dismantlement of decommissioned nuclear submarines in the Russian Far East will be completed by 2010.

Both Ministers also agreed to consult the ensuing cooperation after 2010 and the details will be discussed between two Governments in due course.

While expressing gratitude to their cooperation, both Ministers emphasized the importance of the continuous cooperation with Australia, ROK and New Zealand which have been the active participants in the projects up to 2010.

## **Closing Remarks**

Dismantlement of decommissioned nuclear submarines in the Russian Far East are in good progress by Japanese-Russian cooperation, the financial cooperation from Australia, ROK and New Zealand through the Japanese-Russian channel, and Canadian and Russian cooperation, on top of US-Russian cooperation. Various cooperative activities to assist the dismantlement of nuclear submarines in the Russian Far East have drawn attentions among the CEG member countries through the CEG workshop held in Vladivostok in May, 2007, cost of which was partly covered by the Japan-Russia Cooperation Committee.

Japan will continue its efforts for the earliest solution of nuclear legacy issues in the Russian Far East, intensifying cooperative relations with the CEG countries through Japan's full participation to CEG this time.

Asking for your understanding on the current activities of dismantlement of nuclear submarines in the Russian Far East and your cooperation to the earliest solution of problems, I close my presentation.

Thank you for your attention.