

UTILITY EXECUTIVE FORUM ON NUCLEAR PERFORMANCE

Katsuya Tomono

Tokyo Electric Power Company, Japan

ABSTRACT

The Japanese operating nuclear power plants have registered excellent performance with high availability exceeding 80% on an average and shorter refueling and maintenance outage than ever before. The twin first-of-a-kind ABWR plants started commercial operation with no forced shutdown throughout the commissioning phase and have continued that excellent performance to the present. In neighboring countries the expected role by nuclear power is ever expanding.

Japanese Utilities are prepared to help their counterparts in the Asian Pacific Rim attain the reliable and safe operation of nuclear power plants.

On the other hand, the future nuclear power programs in JAPAN in general faces challenges including fuel cycle, nuclear waste disposal and fast reactor programs. We must meet these challenges in the wake of the changing paradigm such as the competitive business environment with Utility business deregulation coincidentally coupled with the decline of fossil fuel prices.

The sodium leakage and subsequent incidents at research facilities have created public distrust, not only to the PNC but also the nuclear community as a whole and has opened a door to questions as to the viability of the fuel cycle and FBR program.

This paper presents how Japan will meet these challenges, discussing coping strategies and proposes a vision for the progress and harmonization of nuclear power programs in the Asian Pacific Rim region.