

“Atoms for the Sustainable Future” Task Force

Start-up process and present status of the Task Force

The world is now confronting serious crises that include tightening energy supplies and global warming. Promoting the safe and secure use of nuclear power as well as international cooperation in the field of nuclear power to that end have become urgent issues in addressing global warming by undertaking to constrain CO₂ emissions while meeting the growing energy demand of Asia and the rest of the world.

At the same time, there is the risk that technology for the peaceful use of nuclear power will be diverted to military use and increase the threat of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. We are now faced with the need to construct a framework that will allow us to utilize nuclear power to contribute to the sustained development of the world economy and the resolution of the global warming problem even as we eliminate the threats of nuclear proliferation, nuclear terrorism, and existing nuclear weapons. What would constitute a balanced approach to promoting nuclear power while addressing nuclear risks?

To answer this question, the Japan Institute of International Affairs in August 2006 created a task force chaired by Tetsuya Endo, former Deputy Chairman of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission (and former Ambassador of the Japanese Government to the International Organizations in Vienna) and comprising Japanese experts in the fields of nuclear power, energy, international law and security. Engaging in regular meetings, overseas research, and international workshops while keeping an eye on the latest developments in the international community, the task force on two occasions – January 2008 and April 2009 – presented policy recommendations on the 3Ss concept (Safety, Security and Safeguards) and approaches for establishing a framework to utilize nuclear power as a means of countering global warming. These recommendations were then directly passed on to Foreign Minister Takamura in January 2008, with many portions also incorporated into the Chairman’s Summary and the Summit Declaration at the G8 Toyako Summit.

These efforts enable Japan not only to protect its own nuclear power program but also to demonstrate leadership in conceptualizing and promoting international nuclear power efforts.

Aiming to compile recommendations this fiscal year as well, the task force continues to hold research meetings. The May research meeting touched on developments such as the

Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons held that same month at the UN Headquarters in New York and the recent Japan-Australia International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament, and examined topics of discussion to be included in the next report.

Previous reports may be seen here ([click link](#)).

- [Atoms for a Sustainable Future: Recommendations on Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century \(April 2009\)](#)
- [Policy Recommendations: Atoms for a Sustainable Future \(January 2008\)](#)

[Overview](#) [Summary](#) [English](#)