

Remarks by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,  
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,  
at the reception commemorating the MOC between JAEA and NNL  
on 6th September 2023

Distinguished Guests,

It is a pleasure to be here with you today, and to have the opportunity to say a few words to commemorate today's signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Japan Atomic Energy Agency and the National Nuclear Laboratory.

I would first like to congratulate you on the Japan-UK team's launch of "Phase B" of the Advanced Modular Reactor Programme, following on from the successful completion of "Phase A". This is a clear testament to the excellent progress this team has made so far towards realising the UK's first High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactor.

Today, the signing ceremony was held in the presence of the two ministers in charge, Mr Yasutoshi Nishimura, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, and Ms Claire Coutinho, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero of the UK. This certainly signifies the political importance our two governments attach to today's event.

The new endeavour marks a big boost for Japan-UK cooperation in nuclear energy – a field in which both countries have been pioneers for many years. Today, our governments have endorsed our commitment to further cooperate in this sector as stipulated in the Hiroshima Accord, signed by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Rishi Sunak on the occasion of the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May this year.

As the world pursues promising new energy sources, there are ardent hopes that High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactors can help pave the

way towards a greener and more sustainable energy supply. Our cooperation will clearly play a crucial role in efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Talking about cooperation in this sector, I should touch briefly upon the Japanese Government's recent decision to start the discharge of Advanced Liquid Processing System(ALPS) treated water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station. This operation is being carried out on a thoroughly scientific basis, in accordance with international standards, and Japan has declared its commitment to ensuring maximum transparency throughout this process. I thank the UK Government for their continued support and understanding on our efforts.

Before concluding, I would like to pay tribute to everyone for all of their hard work on this project. I look forward to seeing further progress in this collaboration as a great example of how our two countries can work together, sharing our knowledge and experience to contribute to a cleaner, greener world.

Thank you very much.