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Minister Nakayama's speaking note

1. First of all, I would like to say thank you from the heart to Minister Romyantsev for hosting this important meeting.
2. 20 years have passed since the leaders of the U;S. and the Soviet Union reached an agreement to launch the project ITER in 1985. Since then, the design activities of ITER have been promoted with great efforts of the Parties participating in ITER project. And the Engineering Design necessary for the construction of ITER was finalized in 2001. I am proud that the researcher of our country contributed to this work greatly.
3. Following the completion of the Engineering Design Activity, three years ago, the negotiation on the ITER site was started. Our country and EU proposed respectively a candidate site, followed by many negotiation meetings in the framework of bilateral and multilateral by 6 Parties, which include the 1st Ministerial Meeting in Washington in December, 2003.
4. Since then, the site issue had been deadlocked up until recently. In order to resolve this situation, last September, Japan proposed a new idea that the roles of the Host and non-Host should be identified first between Japan and Europe, while not assuming a specific site.
5. The point of this proposal is that not only the Host party but non-Host party should play an important role in implementation of the ITER project and future nuclear fusion research. Other four parties than Japan and Europe welcomed the deliberations based on this proposal and they expressed their expectation that this proposal would make it possible to reach consensus on the site issue. The two parties continued the negotiation, and finally reached a common view, which provides basis for the decision of the site.

6. The reasons why we have pursued to host ITER with a vigorous energy are threefold as follows:

Firstly, Japan, which is poor in energy resource, has a strong intention to take initiative in contributing to the world by developing fusion energy, which would enable supplying nearly inexhaustible energy and environmentally benign for the Earth for the sake of humankind.

Secondly, our country has major contribution in this field where it is at the top level of the world based on the research activities of a long period of time, and has sufficient capability of playing the role and fulfilling the responsibility of the Host party.

Thirdly, if such a big project for science and technology is realized in Japan through international cooperation, it would be epoch-making not only for Japan but also for other Asian countries, thus greatly significant.

7. However, based on the situation that three years have passed since the start of the negotiation on the site issue and the consensus on the roles of the Host party and the non-Host party had been reached, it is not preferable that the both Japan and the ED stick to their site and the negotiation continues in the future with no prospect of conclusion. We presume that other parties share this view.

8. Therefore, considering, from various points of view, the following points and others;

- The ITER project should be started as soon as possible for the future of humankind;
- The 6 Party-framework should not be broken in implementing the ITER

project;

- Whether the ITER project can be started smoothly or not would give an extremely great effect on the international co-operation for global science and technology in the 21 st century;

And taking a broader view of the situation, we decided that we will let the EU to host the ITER site. Now we propose it to you all officially on behalf of Japanese government.

9. If the other parties accept our idea, European Union will be the Host party which should have more important role and more responsibility than the other parties. I would like to emphasize that European Union should play the role of the Host and fulfill its responsibility properly as a Host party in various aspects; for example, the financial aspect, the support for the project management, the provision of the infrastructure needed for the site, and the implementation of the Joint Paper which Japan and European Union have conclude. I understand that European Union acknowledges these very well. Of course, our country will play our own role steadily with the co-operation with other parties for the purpose of the development of nuclear fusion.

10. I sincerely hope that our proposal today will enable the ITER project to proceed fast and will contribute to its success. I believe that this conference is extremely important for sustainable development of humankind. Finally, I strongly wish that we, 6 Parties attending this conference, will concentrate our wisdoms and abilities toward the success of the ITER project and the realization of fusion energy.