

Please find the informal translation by Tomoko of the report given by Mr. Omi and the Knowledgeable Members of the Council of Science & Technology Policy which was submitted and discussed at the Council of Science & Technology Policy chaired by Prime Minister on 25 December, 2001. Mr. Koizumi as well as Ministers of MEXT and Finance have well understood the contents.

**The Viewpoint for ITER Project
(submitted to the Council of Science and Technology Policy)**

25 December, 2001
Minister in charge of Science and Technology
Knowledgeable Members of the Council
(only the main part of the report is translated)

Based on the above understanding, from the view point of science and technology policies, the Minister in charge of Science and Technology (Omi) and the knowledgeable Members of the Council have investigated the participation to ITER Project and, furthermore, siting ITER Project by our country since the Meeting held in last June.

The point of issue have been extracted and research and investigation have been proceeded by reviewing the contents investigated by the Nuclear Energy Commission, visiting the domestic fusion facilities and site candidates and hearing from the experts. With regard to the participation to ITER Project, varieties of opinions have been given, especially good or wrong to site ITER, however, now the viewpoint has been concluded and we report it as follows. We would like to request to make the final decision on the participation to and/or siting ITER Project at the next or later Council of Science and Technology Policy based on the actual situation of the other countries and the result of the Negotiations Meeting scheduled for January next year.

1. Quite a long time is still foreseen to put fusion power generation in practical use, however, ITER Project is at present the best possible selection for research and development to ensure the realisation of fusion power generation such as realisation of fusion plasma self burning and the comprehensive tests for reactor engineering technology. If ITER Project makes good progress the accumulation of a great deal of information and knowledge is anticipated, useful for the future fusion power generation. It is considered to be quite meaningful that ITER Project is implemented as an international project with its cost shared among the participating countries and the results to be possessed jointly.

With regard to the accumulated results profitable for science and technology of our country, if we participate to ITER Project, in addition to share the research results, technical acquirement is anticipated through joint provision of the materials and seconding researchers. Furthermore, in case of siting ITER Project the international centre of fusion research is formed in Japan and lot more technology will be accumulated and personnel will be reared compared to the mere participation. As the results the basis of the future fusion power generation could be formed in access. Moreover, through the greatest contribution among the participating countries our country's sincere attitude, endeavouring to solve the energy issues.

On the other hand, the site country owes considerable amount of cost and responsibilities for safety assurance and the waste management compared to the mere participation. Nevertheless, if we intend to take a leading part in fusion power generation in the future the results acquired from siting is considered to be quite big.

It will be possible that the cost necessary for the participation to and/or siting ITER Project will be secured within the nuclear research budget by expanding the science and technology related expenses which are presented at the 2nd period science and technology basic programme. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Toyama), in charge of ITER Project, should take a responsible measure in budgets so as not to exert influences on other important fields.

Taking the above into consideration, the Minister in charge of Science and Technology and the Knowledgeable Members of the Council have judged that the ITER Project participation of our country is desirable and furthermore, its siting is meaningful.

2. It is appropriate that the government faces the governmental negotiation bearing the siting of ITER Project based on the above viewpoint. The governmental negotiation should endeavour to form a well-balanced framework for cost-sharing and for responsibilities among the participating countries and make best efforts so as not to do damage to national interests. At the same time, it is necessary to make efforts to gain the national consensus for the significance of ITER Project. It will be appropriate that the government should make the final decision on the participation and/or siting from this comprehensive viewpoint.