

Congratulations to 2017 UC Pacific Rim Forum On Earthquake Resilience of Nuclear  
Facilities

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Good afternoon, Ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to congratulate the organizer of this Forum on the wonderful work they have done in organizing the comprehensive and well-rounded program that captures the concerns and progress in the field of earthquake hazard and risk assessments on both sides of the Pacific Ocean.

Yesterday and today, I enjoyed the excellent presentation, discussion on timely challenges facing the nuclear enterprise and lively exchange of ideas for the safer nuclear facilities in the world.

If my memory is correct, in 2012, the framework of US-Japan cooperation on nuclear energy has been reorganized into one that is more comprehensive in nature, in accordance with the agreement between energy Ministers of both countries including then Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and Daniel Poneman, encouraging Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan play larger role than before and expanding the subjects to cover nuclear security, civil nuclear energy research and development, safety and regulatory issues, emergency management and decommissioning and environmental management.

In this context, please allow me to freely celebrate the U.S.-Japan Bilateral Commission on Civil Nuclear Cooperation for their successful promotion of such excellent cooperative gatherings of experts like this series of UC Pacific-Rim Forum. I sincerely hope that this kind of excellent dialogue and technical exchanges on the societally important issues will be continued in similar manner at some place in the near future.

In the case of my organization NUMO that is responsible to implement deep geological disposal of HLW, we recently decided to participate in the research program in Lawrence

Berkeley National Laboratory that explores the effect of seismic wave on the radioactive material transport characteristics of rock with faults at the geological environment with well-characterized faults in the underground of the laboratory.

Taking this opportunity I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks to peoples of USA for your continuous and kind support for decontamination and remediation activities in the area outside of Fukushima-Daiichi and decommissioning activities for damaged units of Fukushima Daiichi NPP. As you know, the nuclear disaster at Fukushima forced about 160,000 people to leave their home due to the contamination of their area. Still 70,000 peoples are out of their hometown.

For the re-construction of Fukushima area the Fukushima prefectural government is now promoting the innovative robotics application initiative to stimulate sustainable development of the area as an industrial center. The Government of Japan is supporting TEPCO's defueling operation at the damaged Fukushima Daiichi units, which should be really an unprecedented challenging work, as well as such local initiative. I sincerely hope that strong US-Japan cooperation will be continued to support these endeavors promoted in on-site and off-site of Fukushima also.

Finally, as you may know, this year is the year of the rooster in Chinese astrology in which it is traditionally said that your business will be thriving. I sincerely hope so except to the earth: the year of thriving earth was last year in Japan as we experienced two earthquakes of which magnitude is larger than seven.

Thank you for your kind attention.