

**Remarks by the Japanese Ambassador Mr. Hikihara at the
Panel discussion marking the
10th anniversary of the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative
(9 November 2020, 3 p.m.)**

Moderator to Japan: Excellency, what had attracted Japan to the PUI and how has it been supporting it?

Thank you Sophie, for your question and good afternoon, everybody.

It is my great pleasure to join all of you to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Peaceful Uses Initiative and I would like to thank Director General Rafael Grossi and his team for giving me this opportunity to speak about Japan's engagement in this important initiative during the past decade.

The PUI has been playing an invaluable role in strengthening peaceful applications of nuclear technology worldwide. It has supplemented the IAEA's Regular Budget and the Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) by supporting many projects otherwise unfunded.

To date, Japan has steadily supported the PUI with our total contribution of more than 38 million euros. They have been used in 86 IAEA projects in various areas, including cancer diagnosis and treatment; infectious diseases; food and agriculture; water resource management; environmental protection; nuclear safety and radiation protection; and nuclear infrastructure development.

Why Japan has been supporting the PUI? There are three major reasons that come to my mind.

First, the PUI plays an important role in supporting the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the NPT. As we know, there are three pillars for the NPT, namely disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. States Parties that accept their non-proliferation obligations have the “inalienable right” to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. At the 2015 NPT Review Conference Japan pledged 25 million US dollars to the PUI. This contribution highlighted our intention to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy among IAEA Member States and thus consolidate their commitment to the NPT.

The second reason for Japan’s support to the PUI is the impact of the PUI on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Out of the 17 SDGs, nine goals are directly related to the activities of the IAEA. The SDGs are an important driver for Japan’s continuation with IAEA projects through the PUI. The Ministerial Declaration of the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology in 2018, co-chaired by Japan and Costa Rica, clearly underscored the importance of nuclear science and technology in achieving the SDGs.

The third reason is to contribute to the IAEA’s Renovation of the Nuclear Applications Laboratories or ReNuAL projects through the PUI. These multi-phase modernization projects enable the IAEA’s unique nuclear applications laboratories to provide member countries with technical assistance to address global challenges in such areas as food and agriculture, human health, and the environment. The PUI has contributed to the ReNuAL projects at an unprecedented scale, which amounts to nearly 40 million euros from 42 Member States, including 6.5 million euros from Japan.

The PUI played an important role in assisting Member States in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. The PUI’s agility and flexibility was crucial in supplementing the IAEA’s regular budget

and Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) to realize timely support to its Member States.

The on-going global fight illustrates once again how peaceful uses of nuclear-related technology can contribute to enhance human security. The concept of human security encompasses the right of people to live in freedom and dignity. It also calls for people-centered policy responses which should strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people and the communities. Already for two decades, Japan has been committed to human security as a guiding principle of our diplomacy and development policy.

In May this year, Japan provided four million euros through the PUI to support the IAEA in the fight against COVID-19, mainly through the provision of virus detection kits and related laboratory supplies. One million euros is to be utilized in line with the ZODIAC that the Director General just mentioned, a new IAEA initiative for fighting COVID-19 and other future zoonotic diseases.

The PUI has also been an avenue for providing support to gender equality. DG Grossi initiated the IAEA Marie Skłodowska Curie Fellowship Program to encourage women to pursue a career in nuclear science and technology. Japan enthusiastically supports this initiative and decided to provide an additional PUI contribution of 500 000 euros Japan to directly support this program.

To conclude, let me tell you that Japan believes that the PUI continues to be an essential tool to bolster the IAEA's activities related to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. I hope that the PUI, based on its decade-long success, will gain an even broader and stronger support from IAEA Member States and other stakeholders and that it will exercise further positive impacts on the implementation of the NPT.

Thank you so much for your attention.

Moderator asks panel: What is the way forward for the PUI? Or What will the next 10 years bring for the PUI?

Thank you, Sophie for giving me the floor.

I think one of the ways that the PUI to go in the future is to expand its support basis. I understand that so far most of the contributions through the PUI has come from national governments, but I think this initiative can also be a very good channel for private sectors to take part in IAEA activities.

Japan has got one good example for that, the Shimadzu Corporation, a major Japanese manufacturer of analytical instruments that donated the main apparatus used for food analysis in October 2017, which enhanced the Agency's capacity for rapid response to food security emergencies. This corporation has actually opened the door to in-kind contributions to the PUI.

Partnership with the private sector can be beneficial in expanding the size and scope of projects and accelerating their implementation. The resources, technologies and expertise from the private sector can often open the way for the realization of projects which would remain otherwise impossible. So with a much broader participation of different stakeholders, including the private sector, the PUI can be a much more useful tool and helpful for all the Member States.

Thank you.