Policies and Concrete Actions for Addressing the Contaminated Water and Decommissioning Issues

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Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
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Basic Policy on Decommissioning (from the Mid- and Long-Term Roadmap on Decommissioning)

Four Basic Principles

① Starting from ensuring the safety of the local residents and workers, the mid- and long-term measures for decommissioning will be deliberately executed.

② The mid- and long-term approach will be taken while ensuring transparency and obtaining the understanding of both the local residents and the Japanese people.

③ Based on site conditions and the results of R&D in the future, this roadmap will be continuously reviewed.

④ Toward the achievement of the goals set forth in this roadmap, TEPCO and the Government will, based on each of their roles, promote cooperative efforts. The Government will take a proactive role in safely and surely advancing the mid- and long-term approach to decommissioning.

Basic Policy on Ensuring Safety

◆ The removal of the hazards posed by the fuel in the spent fuel pools and by the fuel debris in the reactor containment vessels will be carried out as soon as possible. Also the treatment of the contaminated water will be propelled.
The "Basic Policy for the Contaminated Water Issue at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station" (Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters’ decision on September 3, 2013) presents the followings.

① Regarding each of the potential challenges, by sharing the procedures and the schedule among the concerned Cabinet Ministers, a system to mobilize the related technologies and expertise at home and abroad, and to implement the countermeasures of the entire Government will be developed. ⇒『Domestic and Overseas Expertise & Wisdom』

② In executing the necessary countermeasures, rather than the follow-up measures like in the past, preventive and multi-layered measures will be taken through identification of any potential risks. ⇒『Preventive and Multi-Layered Approach』

③ Appropriate measures will be taken through intensive examination in order not to miss new events and to minimize the influence of them. ⇒『On-Site Focus』

④ Information sharing with the international community on the causes of events, the progress of countermeasures, and radioactive situations of the environment and foods will be strengthened. ⇒『Reinforcement of Global Communications』
Direction of Concrete Actions on the Contaminated Water Issue

① Approach for Making Use of Domestic and Overseas Wisdom and Expertise
   ➢ A team will be established to collect wisdom/expertise at home and abroad on potential risks accompanying technical difficulties, and proposals of countermeasures will be broadly invited. (Received proposals will be closely examined mainly by the Committee on Countermeasures for Contaminated Water Treatment.)
   【To be intensively carried out from the middle of this month, and provisionally summarized in 2 months. Also in future as necessary】

② Preventive and Multi-layered Approach
   ➢ The Committee on Countermeasures for Contaminated Water Treatment, based on site considerations, will identify potential risks and add countermeasures when necessary. 【To be intensively carried out from the middle of this month, and provisionally summarized during this calendar year. Also in future as necessary】
   ➢ (Rather than leaving to TEPCO), the Committee on Countermeasures for Contaminated Water Treatment will carry out the necessary on-site investigation. 【To be carried out as necessary】

③ On-Site Focused Approach
   ➢ Through daily on-site work and patrols, new events will be quickly discovered and reported.
   The Intergovernmental Liaison Office for Contaminated Water Issue will check the progress of measures. 【Daily】
   ➢ At the Intergovernmental Council for Fostering Mutual Understanding on the Contaminated Water Issue, the views from a wide-range of on-site parties will be taken into account, measures will be reviewed and revised, potential risks will be identified, and coordination will be made with the Council for the Decommissioning of TEPCO’s Fukushima Daiichi NPS. 【In principle monthly (Secretariat meetings weekly)】

④ Reinforcement of Global Communications
   ➢ In addition to related ministries' and agencies' prompt preparation and dissemination of primary information in foreign languages (including on the progress of contaminated water countermeasures, radioactive situations of the environment and foods), the Contaminated Water and Decommissioning Issues Team will summarize and disseminate primary information corresponding to domestic and overseas needs. 【To be carried out immediately】
   ➢ Regarding global communications, in addition to providing information including primary information through embassies abroad and to the foreign diplomatic corps in Japan and the strengthening of it, with the cooperation of related ministries and agencies, International Public Relations Office of Cabinet Secretariat will proactively communicate to foreign media. 【To be carried out immediately】