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**Once Again No Nuclear Power Generation  
~ What Can We Do for a Stable Supply of Energy? ~**

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At the Ohi Nuclear Power Station (NPS), owned and operated by the Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc., the only NPS in the country that had been in operation at that point, Unit 4 was shut down on September 15 for a periodic inspection, as Unit 3 had been earlier, putting all 50 domestic nuclear reactors out of service once again.

Since the accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPS, Japan has managed to get through three summers without experiencing major power failures, notwithstanding sometimes difficult situations. This was only possible because of the full operation of thermal power plants, many of which must be described as old and deteriorated. Restarting antiquated facilities that were never expected to be operated again was itself very demanding, including the need for substantial maintenance, monitoring and more. Continuing operations are like walking a tightrope, while increased consumption of fossil fuels is driving up CO2 emissions. This is inevitably so, and all the more because old facilities emit more CO2 than state-of-the-art ones.

Fuel costs, too, have risen since the accident, by JPY3.8 trillion annually, or about JPY30,000 per capita. To put that in perspective, an increase in the national consumption tax of 3 percentage points is currently expected, which would mean roughly JPY8.1 trillion in additional national revenue. The *magnitude* of increased fuel costs alone is on the order of *half* that additional revenue. Half that amount of additional money is now flowing out of the country *because* nuclear power plants are not operating. Energy issues have serious consequences across a range of personal, industrial and national-economic activities.

The present energy supply structure includes numerous problems and vulnerabilities in its facilities, environmental effects and costs. The solution is good-quality electricity+. safe, affordable, and with a stable supply.

Policy discussions on ensuring energy over the long-term have been carried out. For the time being at least, good-quality electricity+ means there is an important role for

nuclear generation, which has low generation costs and no CO2 emissions.

As part of the effort, it is important to steadily implement work to assure conformity with the new safety standards and to restart NPPs whose safety has been confirmed. In this respect, we ask the national government, the regulatory authority and nuclear operators to strive to improve transparency in those processes and give thorough explanations of the results to the people in order to obtain understanding from society.

Being part of the nuclear industry, we, the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc., will endeavor to make people understand the necessity of nuclear energy and to share information on the industry's safety-improvement activities. We will also work hard to regain lost public trust in nuclear generation by asking for more effectual regulation and a perpetual effort to improve safety.