

Activities of Japan Opinion Group for Energy Issues

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Japan Opinion Group for Energy Issues

The Roles of the Japan Opinion Group for Energy Issues

Major Roles

- Active responsible persons in utility companies or nuclear power plant suppliers can not respond to prompt requests from media reporters in the case of nuclear troubles, because of the restriction of the position in the organizations.
- The media reporters in many cases have to rely on anti-nuclear people.
- Therefore articles will become somewhat exaggerated.
- In such case, we retired engineers of this group will respond to technical explanations.

Other Roles

- Promoting nuclear power generation for stable energy supply by retired engineers.
- Leading nuclear public acceptance through media and other various method.
- Offering technically correct information to public.
- Correcting false information in media.
- Offering opinions to the requests of public opinions from various organizations

Major Activities of the Group

- This group started on October 2001, with all activities on volunteer basis, because of keeping independence from any organizations.
- Present number of the members is about 160, mainly retired engineers from major nuclear suppliers such as Hitachi, Toshiba, Mitsubishi, and from major power companies such as Tokyo Electric, Kansai Electric, Japan Atomic, Chubu Electric, and some retired persons from various organizations such as government, research institutes, media and others.
- We have a steering committee once a month, already 28 times.

Other Various Activities-1

1 .Home Page (<http://ww.engy-sqr.com>)

- The major contents are: “my opinions”, “theme discussions”, and “technology explanation” columns.
- Many people in media, anti-nuclear organization and nuclear related organization are watching this home page.
- Total access numbers are more than 28,000

(1) Examples of “my opinions”

- General opinions for energy and environment issues.
- Opinions for energy and nuclear policy.
- Opinions to correct false media articles.
- Opinions for current nuclear issues such as Tokyo Electric scandals.

Other Various Activities-2

(2) Examples of “theme discussions” (already 22 items)

- Freedom for electricity supply and nuclear power
- How to cope with Tokyo Electric scandals
- Comparison of nuclear power generation cost with other sources
- What are barrier factors to increase nuclear plant availabilities
- Energy education issues
- Aging issues of nuclear power plants

(3) Examples of “technology explanations”

- Explanation of general technology terms relating energy, nuclear and environment
- Explanation of current nuclear technology issues such as SCC in shroud structure, capability of detection of faults in stainless steel by UT

Other Various Activities-3

2 .Communication with media

- Registered members are open to consultation, Q an A for requests by media.
- Several members have already accepted such requests from major news papers and NHK.

3 .Publishing opinions to news papers and magazines

- We have exclusive column in monthly magazine named “monthly energy”

4 .Voluntary application for public opinion requests (already 8 cases)

- Fukushima Prefecture’s opinion requests for their “energy policy report”
- METI’s public opinion requests for “fundamental planning of energy policy” and “new inspection regulation policy” etc
- Other government organization’s requests for public opinions

Other Various Activities- 4

5. Co-operation with various organizations promoting nuclear energy

- Atomic Energy Society of Japan
Supporting group together with Japan Atomic Industry Forum etc. in “Atoms for Peace in Japan Meeting” in September 2003
- EEE (energy, environment, e-mail) conference
Many members join in this conference and lecture meetings and contribute to build up opinions
- IOJ (Innovation of Japan)
Participating in the planning and steering committee

6 .Attending and expressing opinions in various nuclear meetings

- Atomic Energy Society of Japan
Invited speakers in Autumn, 2002, Spring, in 2003 meetings
Invited speakers “Atoms for Peace in Japan meeting” in 2003
- PBNC,
Invited speaker in April 2004 meeting

Conclusions

- Activities of volunteer retired people such as our group are becoming more and more important, because of independent third party opinions
- I hope that activities similar to us would be made in other countries and to co-operate to expand nuclear acceptance activities world wide