

WELCOME ADDRESS

Mr. T. Yamamoto
Director General, Atomic Energy Bureau
Science and Technology Agency

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Science and Technology Agency, I would like to welcome all the participants of this OECD/NEA Information Exchange meeting to Japan. Nuclear Partitioning and Transmutation is one of the most promising fields of nuclear technology. We expect that partitioning and transmutation technology would contribute to the enhancement of the efficiency of high level waste disposal and the utilisation of resources in the spent fuel. We believe that the basic research and development effort in this field would be beneficial for the future generations although it is not quite an alternative to the present back-end policy. In October 1988, the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management of the Japan Atomic Energy Commission drafted a long term R&D plan on nuclear partitioning and transmutation technology to the year 2000, which emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in the field. Following this plan Japan proposed an international cooperation for information exchange on partitioning and transmutation technology last year. It is a great pleasure and honour for us that the first meeting is taking place here in Japan. We expect this cooperation will result in enhancing the studies of nuclear energy. With this in mind the Japanese government will continue to support this project. I sincerely hope that this meeting will be fruitful and useful for all participants. Also I would like to thank the Chairman, Dr. Yamamoto, and the welcome efforts of Mr. Stevens of NEA and all the participants.

In closing my remarks I wish you will enjoy your stay in Japan where autumn is the best season. Thank you very much for your kind attention.