

## Executive Summary

Nuclear energy remains an important option for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)+6 countries (the 10 members of ASEAN plus Australia, China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and New Zealand), due to insufficient renewable resources and the increasing effects of pollution from coal. Nuclear power generation can provide these countries with energy security, and a solution to environmental problems such as climate change.

On the other hand, a negative perception towards the introduction of nuclear power has spread in many countries, including Japan, since the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant (NPP). This background suggests a situation where social consensus cannot be obtained and there is no choice but to put the introduction of nuclear power on hold even if governments are contemplating bringing NPPs onto their soil. Improving public acceptance (PA), a way of forming social consensus, is effective for nuclear power introduction in ASEAN countries.

In some developed nations where nuclear power facilities have been in existence for many years, there are entities that have successfully served as a communication bridge between residents and the nuclear power business operators. To improve PA, methods used include public participation, incentives, and benefits. As one method, it is important to hold international symposiums where experts get together from all over the world. All the more important, however, is to invite leaders of regions and opinion leaders of municipalities of developed nations where nuclear power facilities are located to hold discussions at workshops, gathering requirements necessary for improving PA and coming up with policy proposals.

The purpose of this report is to clarify the issues of PA and the common and/or different points of recognition between the explainer and the recipient, and to compile policy proposals gathered from the discussions at workshops.

The compiled policy proposals are:

### 1) Matters on trust

- The government should announce a consistent national energy policy.
- The government and the operators should disclose information required by people in an honest manner.

- Information shall be sent by trusted bodies.

## 2) Matters on communication and transparency

- Independent third parties should be involved in the communication.
- It is important to share facts about climate change, energy security, and related economic issues for the benefit of the community.
- Technical terms should not be used in explanation of safety and risks.
- The government and the operators should appoint communication experts who stay in the same position for the long term.
- The government and the operators should respect various opinions from different people.
- Residents should be involved in decision making and have the right to refuse the policy implementation if necessary.

## 3) Matters on economic development

- There should be links between business opportunities of nuclear power and other sectors so that various kinds of businesses can expand in the region.