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The Minister of Education, Culture,
Sports, Science and Technology
Hirofumi Shimomura

Request for actions concerning the radioactivity leak accident
at the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex (J-PARC) and
related matters

Leakage of radioactive material to the outside of the radiation controlled area occurred at the Japan Proton Accelerator Research Complex (J-PARC) and the reporting this incident to the relevant agencies and organizations was substantially delayed. They are attributable to less-than-satisfactory safety consciousness of the managers who are in charge of radioactive material and to flaws in your safety management system at large. In the recent circumstances, where strong desires are widely shared for ensuring the safety and reliability with regards to atomic energies, this accident betrays the expectation and seriously undermines the trust from the local communities, the authorities and the entire nation. Thus, I have to express my serious concern and dissatisfaction on this incident.

I request you to take the required actions listed below to ensure prevention of recurrence of similar failures and urge to promptly report to us the specific measures you would have taken.

In the process of implementing these measures, I request you to adequately follow the directions from the Nuclear Regulation Authority and to make the best effort for fulfilling your accountability to gain the understanding from the local communities and from the nation as a whole.

Notes

- 1 Revalidate the safety management systems, the emergency procedures, the practices and related matters concerning all the facilities and equipment owned by High Energy Accelerator Research Organization and Japan Atomic Energy Agency, which are subject to the Law for the Regulations of Nuclear Source Material, Nuclear Fuel Material and Reactors (Act No. 166 of 1957) and the Law Concerning Prevention from Radiation Hazards due to Radio-Isotopes, Etc. (Act No. 167 of 1957)
- 2 With regards to the facilities and equipment associated with the J-PARC, the site of this accident, you should conduct the validation work above in consultation with an external expert panel, which you should form specifically for this purpose.
- 3 If the validation process above reveals defective systems, procedures or practices, do not resume the operation of relevant facilities or equipment until required improvements are implemented.
- 4 Make maximum efforts in facilitating adoption of safety culture among all the members in your organizations.