

Japan FIRST Study Tour 2025 co-hosted by the U.S. and Japan

<Background/Objectives>

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) supports the Foundational Infrastructure for Responsible Use of Small Modular Reactor Technology (FIRST) program. Led by the U.S. Department of State, FIRST harnesses the power of the nuclear industry to expedite responsible nuclear reactor deployment worldwide. As part of this effort, Japan FIRST Study Tour 2025 was organized to provide knowledge on site selection to nuclear power officials in countries interested in introducing SMRs.

<Details>

In July 2025, the U.S. Department of State, the Association for Overseas Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Partnerships (AOTS), and JICC collaborated to invite 18 nuclear power professionals from countries interested in introducing SMRs to Japan. JICC was responsible for planning, coordinating with the sites to be visited, and arranging lectures. The tour included visits to the Tohoku Electric Power Company's Onagawa NPP, the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum, the TEPCO Decommissioning Archive Center, Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation, Security and Human Resource Development (ISCN) of Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), Hitachi GE Vernova's Rinkai Factory, and IHI's Yokohama Works, with each site extending tremendous cooperation to the program.

<Results>

Participants gained multifaceted knowledge on: 1) practical insights into the selection of nuclear power plant sites in Japan, 2) reactor safety measures, 3) decommissioning and disaster prevention measures, 4) nuclear nonproliferation and security, and 5) SMR technology capabilities in industry, among others. Participants commented that they had gained valuable experience regarding nuclear power generation and highly evaluated the program. JICC believes that it has also made a significant contribution to international cooperation between Japan and the United States.



Group Photo with Ms. A. Vasovic (U.S. DOS) and Mr. A. Circharo (U.S. Embassy in Japan)



BWR reactor model at the PR Center, Onagawa NPP



Visit to Onagawa NPP which has resumed operations



Learning from the Fukushima Daiichi NPP Accident