

# **U.S. National Academy of Sciences**

## **26-28 Nov. Committee Meeting for the Study** *Lessons Learned From the Fukushima Nuclear Accident for Improving Safety and Security of U.S Nuclear Plants*

### **What is the U.S. National Academy of Sciences?**

The National Academy of Sciences was formed in 1863 to provide objective science, technology, and health policy advice. It is a private and independent nonprofit institution. It is not part of the U.S. government. The National Academy of Sciences enlists leading scientists, engineers, and other experts to answer scientific and technical issues facing the United States. For each study that is requested, committee members are chosen for their expertise and experience and undergo a conflict-of-interest examination. Committee members serve as volunteers and are not paid for their service.

### **What is the goal of the study?**

The goal of the study is to improve the safety and security of nuclear plants in the United States by examining what occurred at the Fukushima nuclear plants following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. The committee will provide an assessment of lessons learned from the accident that can be applied to the operation and regulation of U.S. nuclear plants. This assessment will include an examination of the causes of the Fukushima nuclear accident.

### **Why is the study committee holding a meeting in Japan?**

The purpose of the meeting is to gather information that will ultimately help improve safety and security of U.S. nuclear plants. The committee will hear from the experts who have knowledge of the events surrounding the accident in Japan. It will also engage those experts in discussions in order to better understand the events that occurred. This meeting is not a hearing about or a critique of the events that unfolded at Fukushima. It is not a debate about the future of nuclear power in Japan. The meeting will not provide advice to the Japanese government, nuclear regulators, or plant operators.

### **When will the study report be published?**

The study is expected to be completed in spring 2014. At that time, the committee will release its scientific report to the U.S. Congress. An electronic version will also be available to the public for free.

### **How can I receive updates on the study's progress?**

Information about the study is available at [www.nationalacademies.org/fukushima](http://www.nationalacademies.org/fukushima). You can also join our list to receive e-mail updates. To join, e-mail [fukushima@nas.edu](mailto:fukushima@nas.edu).