

## **CSCAP Memorandum on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy**

The enclosed CSCAP Memorandum was developed by the CSCAP Study Group on Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the Asia-Pacific and approved by all member committees. While recognizing the inalienable right of all countries to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, this memorandum highlights the need for safeguards and security measures to ensure international nonproliferation and safety standards are maintained as the use of nuclear energy spreads in the region. To this end, the memorandum provides specific measures for establishing a safe and secure framework to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy.

As this memo was being finalized, the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power installations in northern Japan were gravely damaged by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Study group members express their concern for and deepest condolences to all who have been affected by this devastating crisis, which has raised several issues pertinent to this memorandum.

The crisis at the Fukushima-Daiichi plant demonstrates that nuclear safety standards and procedures are vulnerable to events beyond human control, and that a serious nuclear accident could have severe humanitarian, environmental, and financial consequences. Robust nuclear safety standards are therefore not just a matter of national interest, but of international security.