

海外からの期待

As Chairman of the international ITC School of Underground Waste Storage and Disposal, which has 18 Japanese member organisations, I am really encouraged to see the planned development of the Japanese HLW disposal programme over the next few years. Japan has the potential to contribute enormously to international knowledge and experience-building in radioactive waste disposal. The implementing entity is already leading conceptual thinking, both in terms of flexible repository designs adapted to a broad range of potential siting environments and waste inventories, and in terms of its open, inclusive approaches to identifying suitable repository sites. At a time when many European repository programmes have stopped, or paused to consider their direction, Japan is breaking new ground in its engineering studies and in addressing tectonically

active environments. This work will be of immense benefit internationally. Although we are today laying the foundations of how to manage radioactive waste effectively, many of the critical decisions in every national and international disposal project will be made by future generations of scientists and engineers - not by ourselves. I expect Japan to be a major player in ensuring the worldwide propagation of knowledge and techniques to these future generations of repository designers, managers and safety assessors.

Professor Neil CHAPMAN
ITC School of Underground Waste Storage and
Disposal, Chairman

