Construction of the first Underground Research Laboratory in Japan excavated to a depth of 500m in crystalline rock
- The Mizunami Underground Research Laboratory Project carried out in order to develop the scientific and technical basis for geological disposal of High-level Radioactive Waste -

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Summary
Japan Atomic Energy Agency at Tono Geoscience Center is managing a geoscientific research and development project, namely the Mizunami Underground Research Laboratory (MIU) Project, in a crystalline rock environment in order to establish the scientific and technical basis for geological disposal of High-level Radioactive Waste (HLW). The research laboratory is an underground facility consisting of two shafts and several galleries and excavation has extended to a depth of 500m. The R&D objectives of the MIU Project are as follows:

- To establish technology for investigation, analysis and assessment of the deep geological environment
- To develop a range of engineering technologies for deep underground application.

The results will be utilized to provide basic information for the final HLW geological disposal project and to draw up national safety regulation standards.