



**Session 1**  
**Feb 23 10:00 - 12:00**

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## Japan's plutonium: Issues and options

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Japan confronts a number of important decisions about the extent to which it will depend on nuclear power to meet its electrical energy needs in the future, whether or not plutonium fuels will part of that future, what it plans to do with its substantial accumulation of separated plutonium, and whether or not it will add to that stockpile in the years ahead.

In the first instance, it would seem wise for the Japanese government to separate the question of nuclear power from the issues associated with the use of plutonium fuels and the disposition of stockpiles of plutonium.

Second, it would help, when considering the continuation of Japan's Agreement for Cooperation with the US and with concerns expressed by Japan's neighbors about a future nuclear weapons option, if Japan developed a plan for the plutonium it owns and stores in Japan, and for the plutonium that will be returned to it from Europe in a few years.

Finally, its decision about if and when it will bring its new reprocessing plant at Rokkasho on line is likely to attract a great deal of critical attention. Technical collaboration with the US, which has its own challenges with respect to plutonium disposition, would seem to be a reasonable next step in addressing these issues.