

Joint Meeting of leading officers representing the Academies of Science of France and of the United States

SUMMARY

The leadership of the Academies of Science of France and of the United States meet from time to time, to discuss common interests. In particular, both academies have important roles as independent, science-based organizations which provide service to society. On October 27-28, 2011, two delegations of leading officers, led by Presidents Alain Carpentier and Ralph Cicerone, represented the academies at such a meeting in Paris.

The participants addressed a range of topics in which science is an important component, including understanding the earth climate system, science education, and cooperation with other academies around the world with regard to common global challenges.

Both of our academies have been assessing aspects of the energy needs of our countries and of the world. There is a clear need for a range of safe, clean, and affordable energy options. Thus it is important to address, for various countries, how to integrate energy efficiency and energy sources including fossil fuels, nuclear power, and renewable energy. In that context, both academies have been assessing the nuclear reactor accident at the Fukushima power station in Japan, in close communication with counterpart science organizations in Japan. The recent FAS report on *Solidarity with Japan*, and NAS work on topics including ensuring the safety of spent reactor fuel, are contributions to identifying appropriate courses of action.

The leaders of the two academies found the meeting to be very positive and useful, and intend to identify ways in which we can work together, and with other academies, to contribute to understanding the lessons to be learned, and to identify actions needed to assure the safety and reliability of current and future nuclear reactor systems.



Pierre LÉNA, Guy LAVAL, Philippe TAQUET, Jean-François BACH, Robert GUILLAUMONT, Catherine BRÉCHIGNAC, Bernard MEUNIER, Kenneth R. FULTON, Kevin CROWLEY, Jeremiah OSTRIKER, Susan WESSLER, Alain CARPENTIER, Ralph CICERONE, Michael CLEGG, John BORIGHT