

Guideline of Conduct

This Guideline of Conduct describes and shows the standards of “attitude” and “words and acts” in the specific activities of members of the Atomic Energy Society of Japan (hereafter AESJ), based on the preamble and charter of Code of Ethics. We know we will face situations where we cannot completely comply with all the articles described here. In such conditions, it is important not to doggedly comply with one article, while ignoring those that are more important. Instead of believing many terms ideologically, searching for conduct which is ethically superior and putting it into action is more important. Moreover, the ethics of each member may not perfectly match to the detail those of others, and a certain level of diversity should be allowed. In addition, keeping in mind the fact that rules change with each generation is important.

*From the viewpoint of easily connecting the charter and guideline of conduct, the charter related to each guideline of conduct is first reiterated.

1. (Rule of conduct)

The member shall recognize and carry out his/her responsibility to contribute to the improvement of quality of human existence and environment sustainability.

(Basic principle of use of nuclear energy)

1-1. Use of nuclear energy covers a broad range of topics, not only energy field related to nuclear power generation, but also medicine, agriculture, and engineering, and fields related to technologies using radiation and isotope. The member shall take pride in the ideals to improve the quality of human existence and maintain the environment, through one's own expert skill, and work on for the appropriate development and expansion of the nuclear and radiation fields in wisdom and effort.

(Respect of the spirit of challenge)

1-2 The member shall constantly aim to further improve research, development, use plan, etc. in the use of nuclear energy, and seek to challenge new possibilities with a comprehensive viewpoint.

(Efforts to solving various tasks)

1-3. The member shall tirelessly work to solve current issues and various tasks which will be encountered in the future in research, development, use plan, etc. in nuclear energy.

2. (Principle regarding public priority and sustainability)

The member shall give priority to public security above all else, and actively promote the development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy and radiation.

(Simultaneous pursuit of the use of nuclear energy and the assurance of safety)

2-1. The member shall always keep in mind past disasters inflicted upon society by nuclear energy, and duly recognize the potential risk of such nuclear energy. Even when using it for peace, maximum effort shall be given to ensure safety with constant awareness of the possibility of the major effect on society.

(Limitation for peaceful use)

2-2. Use of nuclear power shall be limited to peaceful purposes. The member shall not participate in any research, development, manufacture, obtaining or use of nuclear weapons, following one's own dignity and honor.

(Caution regarding proliferation)

2-3. The member shall be aware of the risk that technology regarding nuclear energy can be connected to the research, development, manufacture, etc. of nuclear weapons, and shall pay maximum caution so that one's own conduct do not abet proliferation of such weapons as a result.

(Caution regarding the assurance of nuclear security)

2-4. The member shall be cognizant that the nuclear and radioactive materials can be used for terrorism, and shall pay due caution to ensure nuclear security.

(In harmony with global environment protection)

2-5. The member shall recognize that the use of nuclear energy has issues regarding radioactive waste processing and disposal which can be a negative legacy to man and the earth while at the same time, it can also aid in the solving of environmental problems by reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and shall seek to act in harmony with global environment protection.

(Warnings regarding the priority of economic benefit)

2-6. The member shall work to manage the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of nuclear energy and radiation-related facilities, and shall not give short term economic benefit priority over safety.

(Warnings regarding the priority of efficiency)

2-7. The member shall not seek to promote efficiency in areas where safety has not yet been confirmed in nuclear energy or radiation-related facilities. The promotion of efficiency shall not be misconstrued as progress, and equipment and operations shall not be changed without full confirmation of safety.

(Warnings regarding seeking compliance to regulations)

2-8. The member shall pay constant attention to the projects, research, and various operations related to nuclear energy and radiation, and avoid making compliance to the laws and rules the purpose of one's actions, and shall act with one's own judgment seeking to ensure greater safety, as an expert.

(Warnings regarding overconfidence in the progress of technology)

2-9. The member shall not become overconfident regarding safety even when progress in nuclear energy technology is made. The history of nuclear energy development is still less than one century. When a new technical problem is deemed to arise in the future, the member shall remain alert, with a feeling of apprehension regarding the development of any new events.

(Ensuring safety in labor)

2-10. The member shall seek to ensure the safety of workers and prevent disaster at a nuclear facility.

3. (Principle of truthfulness)

The member shall always respect the facts and act and judge by one's own intention, with impartiality and fairness, while actively examining the latest knowledge.

(Pursuit of the latest knowledge and own judgment)

3-1. The member shall seek to collect information throughout Japan and overseas, in order to constantly update the knowledge related to one's own operation, and make judgments with related expert ability, without blindly accepting the given information.

(Respect for scientific truth)

3-2. The member shall respect scientific truth, and in the event a mistake is clearly and scientifically identified, the member shall resolutely point out such mistake and seek to correct it.

4. (Principle of sincerity and honesty)

The member shall observe the Law and social norms, and seek one's best to gain the trust of society by faithfully performing one's own duties and maintaining accountability.

(Sincere conduct)

4-1. When a member participates in operations as a representative of an employer or a proxy of the client, the member shall carry out operations with sincerity, as a representative of the employer or a proxy of the client. Moreover, in cases where benefit can be provided to the other organization, willingly or individually, such shall be explained to the employee or client in advance.

(Caution regarding contracts)

4-2. The member shall respect a contract as a person of society. A contract which is in violation of the law shall not be concluded. In addition, in the event of a conflict in interest when carrying out operations as a representative of the employer or a proxy of the client, such fact shall be disclosed to the employee or the client, and operations shall be discontinued, except in cases where it can be clearly explained, even to a third party.

(Compliance regarding official certification)

4-3. The member shall not carry out operations which require official certification unless possessing such certification, and shall not allow persons who do not possess such certification to carry out the operations.

(Compliance to the rules and prevention of losing substance)

4-4. The member shall constantly seek to confirm and revise the appropriateness of the rules, as well as in sincere compliance with the laws and rules etc., (hereinafter referred to as the "rules"), and maintain a spirit of compliance to the rules by regular training etc., and shall prevent rules from losing substance due to divergence from the regulation of various rules and the actual conditions of the job.

(In harmony with society)

4-5. The member shall always attentively listen to opinions of society, and seek to sincerely communicate. When explaining the expert knowledge, instead of pushing a one-sided sense of values, the member shall seek to work in harmony with society by listening to opinions of others.

(Commitment from the society)

4-6. The member shall accept a kind of commitment from society in general, as a group and as an engineer handling nuclear technology. This is a moral contract established with society in general, and the member shall always keep in mind that a special responsibility and moral viewpoint are demanded of him/her under this contract, and act accordingly.

(Creating a society with peace of mind)

4-7. The member shall fully understand that peace of mind regarding technology is created not only through the safety of technology but through trust in the person who is handling that technology. The member shall contribute to the creation of a society with peace of mind, as well as work to preserve safety.

(Warnings regarding the peace of mind of the members)

4-8. The member shall not be overconfident regarding his/her efforts to ensure safety, and not become complacent. Obtaining public trust is recognized by the person handling nuclear energy being fully aware of the danger, acting with a sense of apprehension, carefully listening to the opinions and criticism of others, and acting on one's own thinking.

(Information disclosure)

4-9. The member shall recognize that intentional cover-up of information ruins one's good relationship with society, and appropriately and proactively seeks to disclose information. In particular, efforts to disclose information related to nuclear security shall be actively promoted, even though this may be disadvantageous to the member or his/her affiliated organization.

(Confidentiality and information disclosure)

4-10. The member shall seek to ensure public safety by promptly disclosing information essential for such safety to the affiliated organization. For example, even if disclosure of information violates confidentiality, disclosure of such information shall take precedence in order to ensure public safety.

(Handling of non-public information)

4-11. Information related to nuclear energy, but is determined to be inappropriate for disclosure for nuclear non-proliferation and physical protection, public safety / profit, etc., such information does not need to be disclosed. However, in such cases, the member shall express this, and explain the reason for such nondisclosure, as needed.

(Responsibility to explain)

4-12. The member shall understand the position of other parties regarding the purpose, method, achievement, etc. of expert activities, and be responsible to explain such in a timely manner and in a way that can be easily understood by non-experts.

(Demand for due care)

4-13. During operations related to nuclear energy and radiation, the member shall constantly act with care, such as not ignoring something which he/she notices during operations and shall avoid being dogmatic and confirm matters with others involved. The member shall keep in mind cases which resulted in a major accident caused by rushing to complete operations or being lax in following procedures in a nuclear facility in Japan or abroad as a lesson.

(Obtaining and confirming accurate information)

4-14. The member shall obtain accurate information as an expert, and personally confirm its accuracy. Information related to safety can especially affect the public and environment, so careful attention shall be given to accurately obtain and confirm such information.

(Private use of the organization)

4-15. Even when carrying out operations other than one's duty during working hours, the member shall not infringe upon the personal, material, or intellectual property resource rights belonging to an affiliated organization without the approval or permission of such organization.

5. (Principle of expertise)

The member shall exert great effort by self-study as a nuclear expert with pride, deeply recognizing the importance of specialized technology. The member also shall seek to achieve technical development in order to return the results of such development to society and work towards the development and positive activation of human resources.

(Study and cooperation in expert fields, etc.)

5-1. The member shall pursue a spirit of challenge in expert fields, such as when exploring an unknown region, while further developing understanding and respect for related expert fields and carrying out self-study. The member shall always carry out operations with a spirit of cooperation. The member shall constantly seek to contribute experience and knowledge obtained while carrying out operations to academic development.

(Expert ability)

5-2. Expert ability described herein shall include not only technical ability related to nuclear energy, but also the ability needed to carry out ethical conduct. Moreover, the member shall be aware that demanded expert ability changes along with society, and always seeks to try to develop the abilities demanded by society.

(Acquisition of knowledge on safety and technology)

5-3. The member shall seek to improve expert knowledge and technology needed to ensure safety, and definitely comply with the laws and rules in business, research, and various operations related to nuclear energy and radiation.

(Acquisition of new knowledge)

5-4. The member shall constantly strive to self-study as an expert, and study related laws, regulations and rules, and daily progress in knowledge and technology, and develop one's own expert abilities. The member shall avoid acting as an expert with outdated typical knowledge and habits.

(Learning from experience and inheriting technology)

5-5. The member shall learn lessons from experiences. In particular, the member shall study experiences not only from unsuccessful cases of accidents and failures at nuclear facilities, but also from successful cases. Information learned shall be shared and efforts made to improve technology and knowledge, as well as to try to prevent occurrence and recurrence of the similar accidents and failures.

(Improvement of the expert ability of the related personnel and human resources cultivation)

5-6. The member shall not only work on for self-studying as an expert, but also make efforts for improving expert abilities of persons who should have expert abilities, especially who are under his/her own supervising, and try to give them opportunities.

(Acquisition and transmission of accurate knowledge)

5-7. The member shall always seek to acquire accurate knowledge, and transmit the knowledge to those people around him/her.

(Diffusion of the scientific truth)

5-8. The member shall spread expert knowledge in the way that is easy to understand, and try to provide the information so that the public can personally make rational judgment.

(Contribution to international society)

5-9. While Japan has much achievement in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, it is also a country which has experienced a nuclear accident. The member shall widely diffuse the knowledge and lessons obtained from this experience, and contribute to the improvement of world nuclear technology and safety.

6. (Principle of capability)

The member shall always work with a spirit of cooperation, keeping in mind that nuclear energy requires comprehensive technology, modestly recognizing the limits of one's own specific professional ability, and seeking to deepen one's insight in non-specialized fields.

(Needs in academic approaches)

6-1. The member shall be fully aware of the fact that nuclear energy is a complex scientific technology that includes various specialized fields, and shall seek to work from comprehensive viewpoint, so that gaps between these specialized fields does not occur, in order to ensure nuclear safety.

(Understanding one's own ability)

6-2. The member shall constantly seek to humbly question himself/herself whether the task to be carried out may jeopardize safety due to the lack of personal ability.

(Development of human resources with a comprehensive viewpoint)

6-3. In the affiliated organization, the member shall create and maintain an environment which can not only improve expert knowledge and abilities of himself/herself and the people around himself/herself, but also develop human resources with a comprehensive point of view.

7.(Development of an organization culture)

The member shall actively seek to contribute to the development of an organization culture, where an individual in the organization can take action in conformance with the Code of Ethics, recognizing that personal conduct can be influenced by the organization culture.

(Basic principle of conduct which should be taken by an individual in the organization)

7-1. The member shall seek to develop a culture in the affiliated organization where ethical problems can be discussed and acted upon freely. When such is insufficient, the member shall seek to innovate such an organization culture (climate/atmosphere), including the organization and system itself.

(Solving issues within the organization)

7-2. When conditions with damaged safety cannot be improved on one's own authority, the member shall work with involved individuals, including persons with authority, and try to improve them. Furthermore, the person with authority in various activities regarding nuclear energy shall be aware of the importance of such responsibility and pay maximum effort toward safety improvement.

(Importance of environmental maintenance in the organization and activity promotion)

7-3. The member with responsibility in organization management shall recognize the significance and importance of this charter, and educate individuals in the organization (members and non-members) of the importance of the Code of Ethics and actively promote such activities, as well as organize the environment for them to act according to this charter.

(Understanding the condition of activities in the organization and continuous improvement)

7-4. The member responsible for organization management, shall constantly watch that individuals affiliated to the organization (members and non-members), are acting based on this guideline. Moreover, the member shall work for the continuous improvement and upgrade of the environment, such as proactively extracting and eliminating factors which hinder the activities of individuals affiliated to the organization (members and non-members).

(Information disclosure procedures and proper operations in the organization)

7-5. The member responsible for organization management, shall regulate information disclosure procedures and operate them appropriately, in order to properly respond as an organization to requests related to nuclear safety from the members.

(Securing the labor environment)

7-6. The member shall try to maintain the environment including the labor environment, which is foundation of activities to secure safety.