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The Energy of Growth in Post-Postwar Japan: Nuclear and Local Community Development

Today, Japan is an economic giant.

This growth, as compared to that of other countries, has many advantages; in particular, the protection Japan receives from the United States is very important. When we think about it, we can consider nuclear development in Japan as a representative of this growth.

This presentation examines how high growth in Japan could be achieved from nuclear and local community development.

In Japan, the first nuclear development policy for the generation of electricity was enacted in 1955. This year was the beginning of "high-growth period" and "the LDP's rule." The Japanese policy was introduced during a period when the regime, which supported the growth, came into existence. In the situation that there was enormous increase in the quantity of energy, while on the one hand, it satisfied the demand of electricity, on the other, nuclear development was a tool for local community development.

The purpose of this presentation is to rethink about the system and the intention of the Japanese policy to use nuclear energy during the late 1950s–1970s. By tracing the process, this presentation unravels that the energy policy in the growth became the energy for growth in Japan.