

## NRA to set toughest nuclear plant safety rules

The chairman of Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority says it will set the world's toughest safety standards for nuclear power plants.

Shun-ichi Tanaka made the remark at a committee hearing of the Upper House of the Diet on Wednesday.

Tanaka said he's been reflecting on the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant and working to protect people and the environment as his mission. He added that he's been making decisions from scientific and technological viewpoints by ensuring transparency.



Tanaka also referred to new nuclear plant safety standards that his agency is to set by July. He said he plans to dispatch agency officials to international bodies this month to hear their opinions.

He said Japan's rules are not as strict as global ones and that he aims to set the world's highest standards based on lessons learned from the Fukushima accident.

Tanaka also commented on differences in assessments of the NRA's geological survey results at nuclear plants by the agency and plant operators.

He said if operators are not convinced by the agency's judgments, they should gather data themselves to scientifically argue their assessments at meetings that the NRA will set up.

Tanaka was appointed by former Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda in September but must be approved by both Diet chambers.

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