The role of the fast breeder reactor prototype MONJU has expanded to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The potential for MONJU's role in the Generation IV nuclear energy systems development, and fast reactor research and development area is clear. Its incomparable fast neutron spectrum density will be a major interest not only for Sodium Fast Reactor but for all the Generation IV concepts. As MONJU's potential future role is laid out, plans for future tests can be made.

This paper describes the recent involvement of three international researchers from the USA, France and the UK who have been working at MONJU on various projects but on the same common denominator: Generation IV. MONJU is seen from this international perspective as an essential research facility, and represents a unique international R&D facility which will fulfill many roles. This paper aims to present some of them.
サイクル機械技報 2004.12
In order to realize a bright future for nuclear power, we must respond successfully to five challenges:

i) Nuclear power must remain economically competitive.

ii) The public must remain confident in the safety of the plants and the fuel cycle.

iii) Nuclear wastes and spent fuel must be managed and the ultimate disposition pathways for nuclear wastes must be politically settled.

iv) The proliferation potential of the commercial nuclear spent fuel cycle must continue to be minimized.

v) We must assure a sustained manpower supply for the future and preserve the critical nuclear technology infrastructure.

The Generation IV program is conceived to focus the efforts of the international community on responding to these challenges.