

Introductory Remarks – Board of Governors Meeting

Agenda Item 6 – Issues related to the Fukushima Daiichi accident

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Welcome and Introduction

Mister Chairman, I would like to provide you with a brief introduction for item 6 of the Agenda regarding the Issues related to the Fukushima Daiichi accident .

Issues related to the Fukushima Daiichi accident

The document GOV/INF/2011/8 under the title “IAEA Activities in Response to the Fukushima Accident” gives in a succinct format all the information on the prompt activation of the IAEA’s incident and emergency system - less than an hour after the Earthquake - on the subsequent Director General’s visit to Japan, inter alia to express solidarity of the international community for Japan, to convey offers of assistance received by the Agency, to obtain information about the accident at first hand; and to stress the importance of the highest level of transparency and the timely provision by Japan to the Agency of official information.

It highlights the impetus given by the special meeting of the Board of Governors, just ten days into the accident, and details the day to day sharing of information with Member States and the Public.

The document explains how, in addition to the coordination role played by the Fukushima Accident Coordination Team (FACT) established by the Director General, two technical teams were formed to inform the Director General’s decision making, and to inform the continuous dialogue with Japanese authorities. Additionally, it identifies how eight expert teams were despatched to Japan in the

fields of radiological and marine monitoring, BWR expertise or food assessment, the latest team being the IAEA International Fact Finding expert mission which left Japan only four days ago.

The document also addresses the central coordination role played by the Agency with international organisations under the framework of the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies and its JPLAN, gathering regularly in video or teleconferences EC, FAO, IMO, ICAO, OECD/NEA, PAHO, UNEP, UN OCHA, UNSCEAR, WHO, WMO, UNWTO, CTBTO, ACI and IATA.

Mr Chairman, rather than paraphrasing the document GOV/INF/2011/8, I would like to tell you the story of a typical day in the life of the Secretariat in March or April.

Let us start at 07.00 am inside the IEC. This is the time of the change of the night to day shift. Summary of the events of the night is exchanged, a briefing on the situation is performed in the presence of members of the Nuclear Safety and Radiological Consequences teams, pending technical questions are noted. The latest IEC Status Summary Report has been posted on the ENAC web site, and will be used as the basis for the briefing of Member States later in the day. FRCT and FNST after an in depth discussion with the experts on shift in the IEC, are already collating the official information to inform the FACT meeting at 08.00 am on the significance of the latest developments. The analysis of the situation by Agency's experts leads to new questions to ask the Japanese authorities. They are immediately

reported to IEC, translated into Japanese by Japanese IAEA Staff on shift, and fed into the continuous dialogue with the Japanese regulatory body and IEC official contact point NISA, (later with other official contacts), and also with the Japanese permanent mission.

Radiological consequences experts, safety experts, marine environment experts, food safety experts, and the monitoring teams on the ground, report to the 8 am FACT meeting. A first plan for the Member States briefing at 14.30 is prepared, highlighting the significance of the various information and data reported in the past 24 hours. The data received from the monitoring team is sent to the Seibersdorf laboratory for analysis. New satellite pictures are expected: Agency Safeguards specialists will bring their expertise to enrich the information provided to Member States.

While tele or video-conferences inside the IEC with international organisations allow to exchange, coordinate, harmonise..., the expert evaluation of the radioactive releases, based on technical evaluations and on the measured deposition data from all sources (official Japanese, IAEA, CTBTO, Member States) is provided to WMO and CTBTO to feed the atmospheric dispersion models, and help assess which MS may be affected. Marine dispersion models are also ordered by the Agency Marine environment Laboratory in Monaco.

A new team is being prepared to be despatched to Japan: the experience-feedback of the team which will be replaced is taken in account to despatch new measuring devices, to prepare a monitoring strategy...

It is now 14.00: time to finalise the preparation of the briefing to the Member States. At 14.30, direction Board room A, followed two hours later by the Press room. It is already 18.00. The Public Information team can gather the material for uploading to the relevant websites, and sum up the questions which give insight into the concerns of the public as seen through the press.

It is also time for IEC to prepare for the Agency-wide call for volunteers to the IEC shifts for the next 2 weeks.

19.00: the night shift is getting ready, the Summary of the events of the day is exchanged, a new Status Summary Report is published on the ENAC website, a briefing of the situation is performed in the presence of members of the nuclear Safety and Radiological Consequences teams, pending technical questions are noted.

At night, more dialogue with NISA will take place in the IEC, the next Status Summary Report will be prepared. For others, it is time to take decisions pertaining to the future: how to organise a Ministerial conference in two months, what speakers to contact on a preliminary basis, trying to find the right mix of geographical balance and high level expertise...

IAEA International Fact Finding expert mission

Mr Chairman, please allow me now to turn to the subject of the IAEA International Fact Finding expert mission.

The objective of the IAEA International Fact Finding expert mission, based upon an agreement between the IAEA and the

Government of Japan, was *“to conduct fact finding activities for a preliminary assessment of the Accident (in particular at the Fukushima Daichii NPP). The Mission also collected information on the Fukushima-Daini and Tokai-Daini NPP sites, in order to make a preliminary assessment of the generic safety issues associated with the natural events and the identification of issues that need further exploration or assessment based on IAEA safety standards.”*

The objective is also *“to receive information on the progress reached to date on the Japanese assessment of the Accident and discuss specific technical issues to develop an informed assessment of the Accident for sharing with the international nuclear community.”*

The Fact-Finding Mission was comprised of international experts with experience across a range of nuclear specialties. They came from 12 countries: Argentina, China, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States. Six IAEA staff members were also present. The members of the mission were selected by the Secretariat, following established rules, on the basis of known expertise in the field, availability, and experience of such missions.

The modus operandi and format of the mission were the same as were applied in the past for this type of mission, for example in 2007 following the Chuetsu offshore earthquake which affected the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPP. As a matter of fact, three members of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa fact finding mission were also members of the Fukushima fact finding mission.

To conduct its work, the team held extensive discussions with officials from the full range of Japanese nuclear-related agencies and ministries, and visited three nuclear sites.

A Preliminary Summary Report of the mission was requested, to provide immediate feedback to the GOJ, given that cold shutdown has not yet been achieved and the crisis is still on-going. It was presented to the Prime Minister's Special Advisor HOSONO at the mission exit meeting. A press release was also prepared. Both documents were made available to the public in a coordinated manner by the Japanese authorities and on the IAEA's website. As it is a rule for the IAEA international experts' missions, the Member State concerned decides if it makes the report available to the public. It is also the Agency's policy to promote such a transparency, as long as there are no confidentiality issues.

The Preliminary Summary Report contains a set of preliminary findings and lessons learned in three broad specialists areas: external hazards, severe accident management and emergency preparedness; they include the following:

- Japan's response to the nuclear accident has been exemplary, particularly illustrated by the dedicated, determined and expert staff working under exceptional circumstances;
- Japan's long-term response, has been impressive and well organized. A suitable and timely follow-up programme on public and worker exposures and health monitoring would be beneficial;

- The tsunami hazard for several sites was underestimated. Nuclear plant designers and operators should appropriately evaluate and protect against the risks of all natural hazards, and should periodically update those assessments and assessment methodologies;
- Nuclear regulatory systems should address extreme events adequately, including their periodic review, and should ensure that regulatory independence and clarity of roles are preserved; and
- The Japanese accident demonstrates the value of hardened on-site Emergency Response Centres with adequate provisions for handling all necessary emergency roles, including communications.

The final report is presently being actively prepared by the team members, with very little time indeed. It will be presented to the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety as part of Working Session 1 on Monday 20th June afternoon on ‘*The preliminary assessment of the Fukushima Accident and Actions for Safety Improvements*’.

Concluding Remarks

Mister Chairman, I tried to give a flavour of the activities of the Agency in response to the Fukushima accident since the 11th of March. Much more is in the Document GOV/INF/2011/8 which has been circulated for your information; much more is expected on the accident itself from the IAEA Ministerial Conference.

Thank you for your attention.