

**Introductory Remarks**  
**Board of Governors Meeting**  
*Agenda Item 3 – Nuclear Safety Review 2013*

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**Denis Flory**  
**Deputy Director General**

**Department of Nuclear Safety and Security**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**



## **Welcome and Introduction**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to provide you with a brief introduction for item 3 of the Agenda regarding the draft Nuclear Safety Review 2013 (GOV/2013/4) and two other documents by the Director General – on the Progress in the Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, and one on the Fukushima Ministerial Conference, and one strategic approach to education and training in nuclear safety.

### **Nuclear Safety Review 2013**

The Nuclear Safety Review 2013 presents an analytical overview of nuclear safety in relation to radiation protection, transportation, waste, nuclear installations, emergency preparedness and response, and civil liabilities. This document also provides an appendix covering the Agency's safety standards activities during the past year.

Each year, we try to increase the value of this document through improved analysis of the various trends, issues and challenges affecting the global nuclear community. An essential factor in the improvement of this document is your feedback. Therefore, your insights and comments are highly appreciated and will be reflected in the final publication for the General Conference.

What we relate as a global picture in the NSR 2013 is a noteworthy progress in strengthening nuclear safety in 2012, as promoted by the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

In reviewing developments in radiation protection, waste and transport safety during 2012, I would like to focus on the most salient following points namely:

1. The increasing complexity and number of radiotherapy procedures making analysis of lessons learned from incidents and sharing of corrective actions throughout the medical community a key-issue.
2. Variations in the application of transport regulations in Member States, that have resulted in shipping difficulties and delays as reported through the Agency's denial of shipment process.
3. The current lack of available disposal facilities in countries for all types of radioactive waste. Although noticeable progress on the geological disposal of such waste has been made by some countries, the absence of such disposal facilities means that additional storage capacity is needed for radioactive waste and spent fuel.

In the area of nuclear installation safety during 2012, this report explores some important trends, issues and challenges, which necessarily overlap with the activities conducted in the frame of the NSAP:

1. After the Fukushima Daiichi accident, Member States have increased their requests for specific hazard assessment reviews as part of the Site and External Events Design (SEED) review service bundle; this increase is likely to grow as countries with more developed NPPs start using the SEED review. However, newcomer countries have not necessarily availed themselves of the SEED review services.
2. In 2011, the Agency introduced severe accident management as a stand-alone review area within the OSART peer review service. In the Agency's review of findings from recent OSART missions, severe accident management guidelines (SAMGs) were non-existent, or not fully trained, or not scoped sufficiently in some NPPs.
3. At the Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, experts stressed that establishment of a robust and enduring safety culture is crucial. However, despite the increased awareness of the significance of a strong safety culture as well as the ongoing reinforcement of safety culture by the Agency through meetings and OSART missions, the Agency has observed, that regulators and licensees often lack a systematic, long-term and committed approach to continuously improving safety.

## **Progress in the Implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety**

The most significant activities reported cover:

- the three international experts' meetings (IEMs) which were organised in 2012. Reports on all three have been published and are also available on the IAEA web site. Further IEMs on other technical aspects are planned for 2013;
- the creation of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Expert Group (EPREG) which held its first meeting last month; and
- The Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety.

### **The Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety**

The Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety has provided an excellent opportunity to share with the international community, at the ministerial and expert levels, knowledge and lessons learned from the accident at Tepco's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, to further enhance transparency and to discuss the progress of international efforts in strengthening nuclear safety, including through the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

The Conference has provided a good occasion to reconfirm commitments to nuclear safety, and it has provided many of us with a chance to visit the accident site, and to grasp first hand an idea of the unbelievably complex and harsh conditions in which the workers of the nuclear power plant had to react to the accident, then, and a

concrete view, today, of the complexity of the work performed and still to be performed.

### **Concluding Remarks**

To conclude, the Board is recommended to consider and take note of the draft Nuclear Safety Review and the two other documents that are before you.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to your comments.