

IRRS MISSION TO JORDAN EXIT MEETING

Amman, Jordan

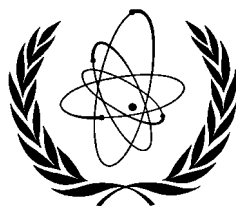
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INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Mr. Chairman, EMRC Commissioners and staff, IRRS Team, ladies and gentlemen, my dear colleagues, Good Morning.

As the Deputy Director General of IAEA in charge of nuclear safety and security (Safecurity?), I am pleased to take part in the exit meeting of the Integrated Regulatory Review Service mission to Jordan.

I understand that very hard work has been performed by EMRC's staff during the preparation phase for this mission, going through the tough self-assessment process, and peaking during these two weeks in providing the team with the information and facilities they needed to do their job efficiently and effectively. I also understand that the very recent reorganization, which has led to the merging of JNRC into EMRC just a few weeks ago, is creating additional work for many of you.

Therefore, on behalf of IAEA, I would like to express my appreciation for your commitment to the IRRS review process, to Chairman Al-Hyari, to Commissioner Awari, to the IRRS liaison Officer, Mr. Tamer Kasht, and to the EMRC staff involved in the IRRS mission and its preparation.

Inviting an IRRS mission demonstrates commitment to strengthen nuclear and radiation safety, and to learn from international experience. This commitment goes well beyond this mission and is demonstrated by the involvement of Jordan in IAEA activities over many years. I would like to encourage your continued cooperation with the Agency.

This peer review was undertaken by a distinguished team of 12 prominent safety specialists from 11 nations, under the expert guidance of Mr. John Loy, Deputy Director General Operation of the regulator body of UAE, and Mr. Nikolai Vlahov from the regulatory body of Bulgaria. Through these long working hours in 10 days, you have generously contributed your valuable time and talents, in a strong spirit of helping and learning from each other. In the name of the IAEA, I address to you my sincere thanks. I also want to thank your national organizations and your countries that agreed to your participation in this mission. Without this significant contribution of its Member States, IAEA would not be able to conduct the IRRS Programme.

The message carried over to IAEA Member States by this IRRS mission is full of significance. It gives prominent visibility to the work accomplished by Jordan to enhance its regulatory effectiveness, and demonstrates again the usefulness and strength of the IAEA Safety Standards which serve as the benchmark for this review.

For the countries that have decided to develop or expand a nuclear power programme, and are in the process of setting up or strengthening their regulatory framework, the example given today by Jordan and EMRC strengthens the message about the necessary dedication to a responsible approach to radiation and nuclear safety. This is more relevant than ever, when the paramount importance of a

strong and independent regulatory system has been highlighted as part of the lessons from the accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPP.

Your example goes a long way towards supporting the work of the IAEA in strengthening safety. This is a goal that we seek to achieve globally through the development of Safety Standards, peer reviews and advisory services to provide advice and guidance on developing a safety infrastructure to all Member States.

The IRRS has become an internationally accepted process in strengthening regulatory activities and it has gained a strong recognition worldwide. As recognised in the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety unanimously endorsed by IAEA Member States at the 2011 General Conference, Member States are strongly encouraged to voluntarily host IAEA Peer Reviews. In so doing, Member States demonstrate their openness and transparency to the nuclear community. They recognise the importance of subjecting their activities to an external peer review, identifying areas for further improvements, and in addition, through disseminating and sharing good practices and lessons learned, they provide a valuable benefit to the global nuclear safety framework.

Unlike legally binding instruments such as the Convention on Nuclear Safety, which include commitments to report to, and take part in, the Review Meetings, IRRS missions are of a voluntary nature. However, just like the participation to CNS Review Meetings, they represent a great opportunity to learn from Peers through exchange and discussion.

I understand that already today, Jordan is preparing the Action Plan that will lead to the implementation of the Recommendations from the IRRS Mission. As a logical step, planning for the Follow-Up mission, some 2 to 3 years from now, needs to be part of the process. The definite importance of conducting follow-up missions was one of the strong conclusions of the 2013 Ottawa Conference on regulatory effectiveness. This has been shown to provide an opportunity to look at additional areas that would benefit the regulatory body. As seen from the IAEA, the time of this follow-up mission might well be very suitable indeed to address your activities related to the development of nuclear power.

I would like to conclude by again congratulating the EMRC staff, the experts and the IAEA team for their dedication and professionalism. I hope that this mission has provided valuable insights that EMRC can use in pursuing its drive for regulatory excellence. I am convinced that other countries will also benefit from the findings and conclusions identified during this review.

Thank you for your attention.

I now formally declare IRRS mission in Jordan closed.