

## **Closing Comments Topical Issues on Nuclear Safety**

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*22 October 2004*

As I stand here this morning, I look back upon the comments with which I opened this conference on Monday and I feel particularly pleased at how each and every expectation that I expressed, and each challenge that I put forth have been recognized. This gives me a great sense of pride combined with deep gratitude – in China, in the Chinese Atomic Energy Agency (CAEA), in the National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA); in you, in the participants in this conference and in the staff of the IAEA. Each of you should be justly proud of your accomplishments this week.

During this week, 274 participants presented, critiqued, and discussed issues related to the challenges before the world nuclear community as it moves into an environment of change and globalization. These participants represented 37 countries, five international and private organizations, and all aspects of the nuclear power community. There were 10 observers to our proceedings and 10 members of the press. Approximately two-thirds of us came to China from foreign lands, while one third came from all over this wonderful country.

I must take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of several individuals, in particular. First, my thanks and congratulations to Messrs. ZHANG Huazhu, Chairman of CAEA, and LI Ganji, Assistant Administrator of NNSA. Their staff

have served them well. Mr GUO Lingquan, the NNSA Conference Coordinator and Mr. ZHANG Chi and their staffs worked especially hard to make this event the success it has been.

Next, I would like to thank Mr. PANG for the assistance he provided to all of us as for the PowerPoint Presentation. Mr. CHEN and Ms. ZHANG were essential to our microphones communications throughout the week. Ms. ZHANG O', Mr. Fred and Ms. XU ran our Information Desk with charming smiling faces. And then, there were the innumerable number of "hidden faces" of the Hotel Xiyuan staff, that attended to all of the little details so well.

Finally, I would like to express special thanks to the President of the Conference, Mr. Meserve for his excellent leadership and foresight in the preparation and conduct of this successful Conference. I would also like to thank the IAEA staff that have worked so hard behind the scenes for the past nine months to make this conference a success. Miroslav Lipar – our Scientific Secretary. Misses Regina Perricos, Evelyne Janisch and Baan Amir our Conference Administrative Coordinators. Mr. Jan Stuller and the Department of Technical Cooperation, who assisted in coordinating and supporting the participation of so many of the non-nuclear power plant participants who have been here this week.

Please join me in expressing our thanks to each and every one of these persons.

Now that we have recognized those that have made this conference such a success, I would like to share some thoughts on what it accomplished.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this presentation, on Monday I posed about a dozen questions that we should keep in mind during the various sessions. These questions ranged from “how we could establish a global safety regime that could adequately respond to the trend towards globalization?” to “how could the industry and intergovernmental information sharing networks become mutually supportive?” to “how do we establish an adequate level of safety for long term operations?” Our deliberations considered each point – some robustly and some less fully – but all were addressed.

Additionally, I stressed broad five points that we should consider throughout the week. These included the role of the IAEA’s safety standards and the approaches in the IAEA’s assistance and services to better meet the ever-changing environment, network knowledge and management, safety and security synergy and views on future activities and meetings of the Agency? Throughout our discussions, these points rose time and again.

I agree with our Conference Chairperson that the findings can be grouped into a few common themes and I would not challenge his characterization. However, as I look upon our results, I focus my thoughts on what actions the IAEA should pursue as a result of this week’s activities. Four actions seem particularly worthy of mention.

First, how should the IEAE further its efforts in the development and application of its safety standards? The need for international standards, as the global reference of high level of Safety, was recognized in each of our four sessions, and the IAEA is the only

international organization with the statutory mandate to serve this role. We must continue our efforts at developing standards for all safety thematic areas and for all types of nuclear installations and at keeping them current and user-friendly by actively incorporating feedback to meet the changes in technology and the needs of our Member States; likewise, we will continue to seek ways to assure that the standards are applied effectively and universally throughout the world.

Second, we must seek out ways to share lessons learned in as deep and wide a manner as possible. Self-sustaining networks within and between Member States based on strategic knowledge management is a key vehicle to achieve this objective. The Asian Nuclear Safety Network, supported in China by the Beijing Institute of Nuclear Engineering, CAEA and NNSA (among others) is the flagship of the IAEA's safety networks. The proceedings and results of this conference will be a key input to this network.

Further enhancement of the IAEA peer reviews, OSART and IRRT in particular, was also widely perceived to be another very effective way to promote the sharing of lessons more in depth.

Third, it is essential that international legal instruments such as the Convention on Nuclear Safety are incorporated into the improvement suggestions on the global safety regime that have been proposed. The IAEA will share the insights of this conference with the contracting parties and will work to engage them, as appropriate.

Finally, all the valuable suggestions and insights of this conference regarding the future activities of the IAEA will be duly reflected in the planning and

implementation of the Agency's future programmes. They include the preparation of the Conference on Operational Safety in 2005 and that on Technical Support Organizations and Research Institutes in 2006. We also plan to organize the next Topical Issue Conference in 2007. We appreciate your continued support and insightful suggestions to make those Conferences as successful and meaningful as this Conference.

In closing, I congratulate you again on this conference. You have provided it with the vision, energy and sustenance that assured its success. Thank you very much! I wish each and every one of you the safest of travels home and declare this conference closed.