

Technical Meeting on the Establishment of a Radioactive Waste  
Management Organization,  
as recommended by the 3rd Review Meeting of the Joint  
Convention.

## **Closing Remarks**

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Convention

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1

## **Purpose and Focus of the TM**

- This TM is a forum for contracting and non-contracting parties to the Joint Convention to discuss common radioactive waste management issues.
- The focus was on setting radioactive waste management organizations to enable safe radioactive waste management in the long term as recommended by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Review Meeting of the JC.
- This is the first occasion to organize such meeting with participants from contracting parties and non-contracting parties of member states together for the Joint Convention's activities.

2

## Session 1: Status, Responsibilities and missions of national organizations for RWM

- The responsibilities for long term safe management of RW including its disposal is a responsibility of the State. The tools used to accomplish this was stressed depend on the legal framework of each country.
- In this context, the following items were emphasized for an effective WM program
  - Basis of national legal and regulatory framework
  - Development of a consistent national WM policy and strategy
  - Clear definition of roles and responsibilities, for industry and States, even though in case of centralized WM body or decentralized.
  - Funding mechanism, independent regulatory authority, public trust, early planning, outreach to stakeholders, R&D, KTM, international collaboration, etc.

3

## Session 1: Status, Responsibilities and missions of national organizations for RWM

- The advantages of non-contracting MSs to participate in the JC was noted
  - Knowledge transfer, self assessment and engagement of all national involved parties to develop national reports and the opportunity to have a peer review on the national WM programs, etc.

4

## Session 2: Challenges of new national organizations for RW

- Great number of challenges has been identified while establishing new organizations.
  - Political and economical crisis, Public and political acceptance, Stakeholder involvement, Funding mechanism, Bilateral exchange, Training needs, Generation gap, International collaboration etc.
- Major problems depending on local conditions may include
  - Insufficient formulation of responsibilities, Unclear role in organizing R&D, Concerns of environmental NGO', Public awareness, Public confidence and involvement, etc.

5

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6

### Session 3: Relations between the Government, the Regulatory Authorities and National Organizations for RWM

- Responsibilities and interphases among bodies involved in RWM have to be clearly allocated.
- They should include the following aspects.
  - Relations among involved bodies found useful to be specified
  - Responsibility for policy formulation, the creation of RWM organization and long term planning of RWM activities was found as a relevant role of the Government
  - Regulatory responsibilities and licensing procedures are in place
  - WMO shall be sufficiently independent from waste generators
  - Good practices are: national plan for RWM, R&D

7

### Session 4: A Common Issue: Communicating with the Public

- The public has a key role in the process of developing a waste management facilities.
- To achieve this support it is advisable to respect the following key points
  - Involvement of the public in the site selection from the beginning
  - Define clear and precise communication programmes for each situation
  - Accommodation to the expectations of the local community
  - Define decision making process clearly and transparently and provide the public space for its involvement
  - The role of the regulator is to protect the public and the environment
  - Foreign communication models can be followed, but must be adapted to the specific culture and circumstances

8

## Session 5: Initiatives for International and Multinational Cooperation

- ENSREG: Proposal for an European Directive on the safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste
  - Best use of JC such as organization of reports, share all written questions and answers. Improve peer review
  - Future directives on RW and SFM
- WENRA: Outcomes and objectives of the WGWD
  - Methodology, Openness and transparency, cooperation with other bodies
- IGD-TP: Implementing geological desposal of RW technology platform
- EDRAM: International association for environmentally safe disposal
  - Views on spent fuel SF & HLW M, Multinational repositories

9

## Session 5: Initiatives for International and Multinational Cooperation

- NEA
- IAEA

10

## Remarks

- The TM as a forum open to both contracting parties and noncontracting parties of Member States has provided a good opportunity for exchanging current status, information and future programs regarding establishment of the Establishment of a Radioactive Waste Management Organization.
- Topics presented and discussed include; Role and responsibility of RWM organization to be established, Challenges of new national organizations, Relations between regulators, stake holders, international cooperation, future plan etc.
- Recommendations presented are to be reflected to improvement of the next JC process.

11