

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

## Opening Speech

Kunihisa Soda

President of the Third Review Meeting of the Joint Convention

7 – 9 June 2010

Maison de la Chimie, Paris, France

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. I am Kunihisa Soda, the President of the Third Review Meeting of the Joint Convention.

On behalf of IAEA and the General Committee of the Third Review Meeting of the Joint Convention, I would like to welcome all participants to this *Technical Meeting on the Establishment of a Radioactive Waste Management Organizations* and especially thank the French Nuclear Safety Authority, ASN, for the support and arrangement made for this Technical Meeting.

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.

I have heard from the secretariat that 35 contracting parties of the Joint Convention and 15 non Contracting Parties are present today. It clearly indicates that issue of waste management is the common issue for all Member States. I do hope that this meeting provides a forum for Member States to exchange views and experiences to resolve the issue of safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

As the first speaker of the opening session, let me make introductory remarks on the background and purpose of the Technical Meeting.

During the Third Review meeting of the Joint Convention, the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) chaired by two vice presidents, Mr. Marcinowski and Mr. Koblinger, made recommendations of improvements for the future

review meetings.

The group discussed seven topics;

- 1) Policy makers topical meeting,
- 2) Data presentation tool for JC national reports based on net-enabled waste management data base,
- 3) Improvements in officers' selection,
- 4) Joint convention leadership,
- 5) Knowledge transfer and continuity between review meetings,
- 6) **Improve interaction between review meetings,**
- 7) Amendments to the duties of the country group vice-chairperson.

For the Topic 6), the group made the Proposal 6;

“Requests secretariat takes action which establishes continuity and ongoing dialogue between review meetings, supporting sustained momentum toward meeting the objectives of the Joint Convention.”

The group recommended that during the period between review meetings, the General Committee can encourage the IAEA secretariat to organize meetings open to all Member States to address specific topics identified at the review meetings and the following specific topics can be of mutual interest:

1. Definition and implementation of a comprehensive national plan for the management of spent fuel and radioactive wastes,
2. Management of very low level waste and implementation of clearance thresholds,
3. ***Establishment of national agencies in charge of the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste,***
4. Management of graphite waste.

This technical meeting is intended to discuss and exchange information among contracting parties and non-contracting parties of Member States. Outcome of this meeting will be extremely valuable for future activities of the Joint Convention for ensuring safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Your active participations during the following sessions are essential.

Lastly, let me remind you the last part of Conclusions of the President Report of the Third Review meeting of the Joint Convention.

The Fourth Review Meeting, to be held in May 2012, will contribute further to achieving and maintaining a high level of safety worldwide in spent fuel and radioactive management. In order to fulfill this goal, the actions of the Contracting Parties and as a consequence their report to the next review meeting should include the following issues:

- 1) Development of a comprehensive regulatory framework,
- 2) the Effective independence of the regulatory body,
- 3) Implementation of the strategies with visible milestones,
- 4) Funding to secure waste management,
- 5) Education and recruitment of competent staff and employees,
- 6) Geological repositories for high level waste.

I hope that we all cooperate and work together with Contracting Parties as well as with Member States to achieve the goals for safety of spent fuel management and radioactive waste management. We need your continuous support and cooperation.

Thank you very much for your attention.