

Statement

the Republic of Korea



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**Statement by Mr. Jong Koo PARK**  
**Vice Minister of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology**  
**Head Delegate of the Republic of Korea**  
**At the 52st General Conference of the**  
**International Atomic Energy Agency**

Mr. President,

It is my great honor to participate in the 52nd General Conference of the IAEA with the delegation of the Republic of Korea.

I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of the 52nd General Conference of the IAEA. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new members of the IAEA: Oman, Papua New Guinea and Lesotho. I look forward to working with them for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and economic prosperity.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude regarding the faithful efforts and achievements of Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, IAEA Director General, his staff members, and the delegation of other Member States for the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Mr. President,

Nuclear Energy has recently been emphasized as the only viable option to meet the growing demands for fuel and to mitigate environmental concerns in many countries.

The countries already running nuclear power plants are making efforts to expand existing programs, and countries embarking on nuclear power programs are enthusiastically working to set a plan for the establishment of nuclear facilities. Countries with no interest in nuclear energy in the past are changing their minds and now paying attention to nuclear technology. This trend clearly represents the importance of nuclear energy now and in the future.

Korea has continuously increased nuclear power activities since the time of the first oil shock in the 1970s, realizing the significance of nuclear energy as a future energy source.

Since Kori-1 was put into grid, in Korea, in 1978, 20 nuclear power plants have been put online and now supply about 40% of Korea's electricity needs. In addition, 8 more plants will be in operation by 2016.

Mr. President,

In order to introduce a nuclear power program, setting up an infrastructure that ensures nuclear non-proliferation, safety and security should come first. In this regard, the role of the IAEA has become more significant.

Recently, the IAEA launched a project to support work in the area of infrastructure development for emerging nuclear energy countries. We also noted that the report entitled "Reinforcing the Global Nuclear Order for Peace and Prosperity: The Role of the IAEA to 2020 and Beyond" was presented by Commission of Eminent Persons in June 2008.

On behalf of the Korean government, I would like to express my appreciation to the IAEA for such timely and appropriate efforts.

The Korean government is ready to share its 30 years of experience in developing and operating nuclear reactors and plans to cooperate actively with the members of the IAEA in this regard.

In its national energy policy blueprint, the Korean government has outlined its plans to increase its energy dependence on nuclear power. To meet this goal, with eight more nuclear power plants to be constructed by 2016, the government is now considering the establishment of 10 additional plants each with a capacity of 1400 MWe by 2030.

At present, two next-generation Advanced Power Reactors (APR-1400), which ensure improved safety and economic efficiency compared to the current Korean standard model OPR-1000, are now under construction. Last year, the Korean government also approved continuous operation of Kori-Unit 1. Hence, it will remain in operation for 10 more years.

At the same time, Korea plans to draw a map and initiate a long-term R&D program entitled the 'Comprehensive Nuclear Action Plan for Future' by the end of this year as a means of securing the drive for growth in nuclear energy and meeting domestic energy demands.

Mr. President,

I believe what matters most for countries as they develop nuclear energy is to participate in bilateral or multilateral efforts and to share information and experience through the international bodies in order to increase efficiency in terms of time and budget and reduce the risk associated with the introduction of nuclear energy.

Korea has been actively participating in the development of future nuclear energy systems such as the Generation IV International Forum (GIF), the IAEA's International Project on Innovative Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO), and the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

Also, we have been closely working with the IAEA by operating a regional office for the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) in Korea since 2005 and by conducting joint research and development programs.

Recently, radiation technology research and development has progressed all over the world. This year, the 6th International Conference on Isotopes (6ICI) was held successfully in Korea. During the conference, as many as 1000 experts from 35 countries shared their knowledge and experience in discussing ways for applying radiation technology to agriculture, medicine, and industry.

Korea will advance the sustainable development of radiation in an effort to improve public health and the quality of life.

Mr. President,

The expanded use of nuclear energy now calls for strengthening the nuclear nonproliferation and heightening security measures more than ever. Given the imminent and grave challenges from nuclear proliferation and illicit trafficking of sensitive nuclear material, we consider it is crucial to achieve universalization of

and compliance with the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and its Additional Protocol.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to call upon those states who do not sign and ratify or adhere to the comprehensive safeguards agreements and the Additional Protocol to do so at the earliest possible date. We welcome the safeguards agreement between the IAEA and India, and expect early entry into force of the agreement, so that India can revitalize its nuclear activities in a peaceful manner.

We also welcome the recent Safeguards Agreement concluded between India and the IAEA and further expect more IAEA member states to conclude the agreement and the protocol with the IAEA so as to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

While expanding the use of nuclear energy, Korea has sustained the peaceful use of nuclear energy as top priority and consistent policy.

In line with this, Korea proclaimed the Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the Four Principles for the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy in 1992 and 2004, respectively, making a full commitment to the principles of nonproliferation.

Since 1975, Korea has sincerely implemented the Comprehensive Safeguard Agreement and additional protocols.

Nuclear activities in Korea have been in accordance with the agreements. Korea also has made efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional framework in order to reinforce the national nuclear energy control system.

As a result, at the IAEA Board of Governors Meeting held on June 4, this year, the Agency recognized South Korea's nuclear transparency by approving the Broader Conclusion. Thanks to the formal recognition, the Integrated Safeguards status has been applied to Korea from July 2008. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the IAEA and to the Member States for their support and cooperation in this regard.

The Korean government has established an advanced mechanism and has

amended laws relevant to the performance of its nuclear regulatory activities in accordance with the Integrated Safeguards.

Mr. President,

Peaceful resolution of the DPRK nuclear issue is vital to securing lasting peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia as well as to sustaining the integrity of the non-proliferation regime. The ROK would like to express a serious concern over the move by the DPRK to restore the Yongbyon nuclear facilities including the reprocessing plant and urges the DPRK to expeditiously resume the disablement measures. The ROK hopes that the DPRK will fully implement its commitment to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and return, at an early date, to the NPT and to the IAEA safeguards in accordance with the Six-Party Talks Joint Statement of September 2005. The ROK anticipates a substantial role of the IAEA in this process on the basis of its expertise and experience in advancing non-proliferation and nuclear transparency in the world and requests continued support of the Member States to achieve the denuclearization of the DPRK within the Six-Party Talks framework.

Mr. President,

Facilitating the peaceful use of nuclear energy should be based on the safety and transparency. Korea has sincerely complied with the terms of International treaties, standards, and guidelines related to nuclear safety and security.

Korea exchanged views on the enhancement of international nuclear safety, in the 4th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety in April this year. Korea will fully cooperate in the IAEA's activities which are considered to contribute to securing nuclear safety and enhancing nuclear transparency of the world.

Korea has also been satisfied with the standards and preconditions required from the overall safety review of the IAEA Operational Safety Review Team (OSART).

In particular, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the operation of Kori-1,

the first nuclear power plant in Korea, the Korean government voluntarily organized the "Special Safety Review Team" this year to examine safety in a more effective way. We firmly believe this shows that we consider nuclear safety our top priority.

At the same time, the International Nuclear Safety School opened in Korea with the cooperation of the IAEA in an effort to share the nation's advanced nuclear safety control technology and experience with other nations.

Given that Korea has experience and expertise in the full procedure of constructing a nuclear power plant from start to finish, including location selection, design, manufacturing, construction and operation, INSS plans to set up on-the-job training for each stage of construction for those nations that start or build new nuclear power plants. Additionally, an international training program will be run in cooperation with the university system here. We hope for your interest and participation in this endeavor.

Mr. President,

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Korea's nuclear power program. In the Oriental region, 30 is the age when one completes building the foundations and becomes firmly established in life. Just so, for the past 30 years, Korea has laid a solid foundation for the development of nuclear technology in a safe and secure manner.

Based on its experience and achievement, Korea will enhance its capability in nuclear energy by developing future nuclear technology with even greater emphasis on nonproliferation, safety and economic efficiency, and by establishing an advanced safety regulatory system.

As it moves forward into the decades ahead, Korea will further strengthen its relations with the IAEA and Member States in order to promote the peaceful use of nuclear power.

Thank you very much.