

change at the top

Ambassador Yukiya Amano of Japan was formally appointed as the next IAEA Director General on 3 July 2009.



Ambassador Amano, whose term as Director General would begin 1 December 2009, will be the fifth Director General of the IAEA in its 52-year history.

(Photos: D.Calma/IAEA)

// It is a great honour for me to address the Board today to express my heartfelt gratitude for the trust that you have placed in me, by appointing me to the post of Director General of the Agency. I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Board, Ambassador Feroukhi, for her sincere efforts and the tireless dedication she has shown in moving the process forward throughout this intensive period, leading to where we stand today. Your guidance and your efforts, Madam Chairperson, which you have conducted in a transparent, skillful and impartial manner, have greatly helped to render this a smooth process.

From the very beginning of my electoral campaign to this day, I as a candidate, have tried my best to secure support across the regions and different groups, and to take into consideration, without bias, the interests of all Member States. Today, I promise again that I will devote my every effort to



the effective, efficient and impartial functioning of the Agency, in the interest of all Member States.

The efforts of a Director General can only be successful when they meet the needs and desires of the Member States. I promise to further intensify communication with Member States, while appealing through you, Madam Chairperson, for the continued cooperation and support of all Member States when I move to my new role at the helm of the Agency, following approval by the General Conference. The tasks awaiting us will be tremendous, but I am confident that a Director General who is trusted fully and actively supported by all Member States will not fail to achieve the goals enshrined in the Statute.

I had the honour to address the Board on 4 March and 26 May to explain my views as a candidate for the post of Director General. I will further elaborate on my thoughts and ideas over the coming months, but let me briefly highlight some of the key points. I will dedicate my efforts to the acceleration and enlargement of the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world. I will work towards the enhancement of technical cooperation and its related activities, the prevention of the spread of


nuclear weapons, and the further improvement of the overall management of the Agency.

As a result of the immense efforts, commitment and time that Dr. ElBaradei has devoted to the Agency since his appointment as Director General in 1997 and also beforehand, the Agency has become the broadly celebrated and eminently decorated organization that it is today. I think I speak for us all in expressing my deepest gratitude to Dr. ElBaradei and his predecessors, for their contributions to the Agency over the years. I would also like to pay tribute to the staff of the Agency. They are the Agency's most valuable asset, and their technical expertise, professional integrity and devotion to the Agency are indispensable in the fulfillment of the Agency's mission. I am very excited and proud to be able to work together with these talented individuals, and to tackle new and outstanding challenges that the Agency faces, together, as a team.

Last but not least, I was truly honoured to have been running for the position of Director General alongside such highly-esteemed, competent and capable candidates, notably Ambassador Minty. I was particularly impressed by the professional and graceful manner in which all of the candidates ran

"Today, I promise again that I will devote my every effort to the effective, efficient and impartial functioning of the Agency, in the interest of all Member States."

their electoral campaigns. We now need to look to the future, and work, as a collective and united group of Member States, to achieve our common goals and the objectives set out in the IAEA Statute. I greatly look forward to listening to, discussing and cooperating with all Member States, and to working together closely to secure the further development and success of the Agency and its activities.

I would like to conclude my remarks by thanking you again for granting me this great honour. I pledge to serve the IAEA to the best of my ability, in an impartial and professional manner, and to dedicate myself fully to its honourable causes." 

Statement by Ambassador Yukiya Amano at the IAEA Board of Governors Meeting of 3 July 2009.

The Fifth DG

Ambassador Amano, 62, is the Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to International Organizations in Vienna, and Governor on the IAEA Board of Governors.

A graduate of the Tokyo University Faculty of Law, Mr. Amano joined the Japanese Foreign Ministry in April 1972.

Mr. Amano has held increasingly senior positions in the Japanese Foreign Ministry, notably as Director of the Science Division, Director of the Nuclear Energy Division and Deputy Director General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs. He was appointed Director-General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs in August 2002 and Director-General of the Disarmament, Nonproliferation and Science Department in August 2004.

Mr. Amano has extensive experience in disarmament, nonproliferation and nuclear energy pol-

icy and has been involved in the negotiation of major international instruments such as the NPT extension, the CTBT, the BTWC verification protocol, the amendment of the CCW and the ICOC. He represented Japan as a Governmental Expert on the UN Panel on Missiles in April 2001 and in the UN Expert Group on Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education in July 2001.

He has served in the Embassies of Japan in Vientiane, Washington and Brussels, in the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and was Consul General of Japan in Marseille in 1997.

Ambassador Amano is to become the fifth Director General of the IAEA in its 52-year history. He will succeed Mohamed ElBaradei, who was first appointed to the office effective December 1997, and reappointed in 2001 and 2005. Other former IAEA Director Generals were Hans Blix, from 1981 to 1997; Sigvard Eklund, from 1961 to 1981; and Sterling Cole, from 1957 to 1961.