

International Conference on Knowledge Management in Nuclear Facilities (18–21 June 2007)

Opening Statement

By: Mr. S. G. Gorlin, WNA and WNU

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure to help open this IAEA Conference on Knowledge Management. I am here in two capacities:

- First, representing the World Nuclear Association, which encompasses most of the enterprises of the global nuclear energy industry;
- Second, representing the World Nuclear University, to which I devote much of my time at the WNU Coordinating Centre in London, as one of the WNA's in-kind contributions to the WNU partnership.

As many of you know, the World Nuclear University is a public-private partnership committed to enhancing international education and leadership in the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology.

My preceding speakers, Luis Echaverri and Yuri Sokolov, represent other key organizations actively engaged in the WNU partnership. The IAEA and the NEA, along with the WNA and WANO, are called the World Nuclear University's "Founding Supporters".

Relying on the strength of its Founding Supporters, the WNU partnership includes a network of leading institutions of nuclear learning in over 30 countries.

Since the WNU's inauguration in 2003, a major achievement has been the assembling of staff at the WNU Coordinating Centre in London. The WNUCC is an international team of government and industry-funded experts dedicated to designing and implementing WNU programmes.

These experts come from such leading nuclear nations as France, the USA, South Korea, Russia, and Canada. We have received commitments for additional staffing from other nations, including India and the UK, and we hope for still more.

The flagship programme of the WNU is the Summer Institute, a unique six-week leadership development course for promising young nuclear professionals. After two Summer Institutes – the first in Idaho, the second in Stockholm – and with a third about to begin in Korea, the WNU partnership has demonstrated what can be done when the strengths and capabilities of industry, governments and academia are combined into support of a valuable and commonly agreed objective.

By the end of this summer, we will have produced a network of some 275 WNU Fellows from 50 countries.

The organization of this conference represents a closely-related contribution to the future of nuclear technology. Knowledge Management is a multidimensional field, embracing knowledge generation, education, knowledge dissemination and preservation.

Both the WNA and the WNU partnership salute this conference and its organizers, with hope that its participants will gain valuable insight into best practices, lessons learned, and modalities of knowledge management that achieve effectiveness as well as efficiency by avoiding duplication of effort.

All of us begin our work at this conference with a clear point of agreement: that successful knowledge management will be a key to surmounting the challenges of effective nuclear operations and sound nuclear regulation in the 21st century.