

**REVISION AS OF 26 SEPTEMBER**

**PHILIPPINES**

**Statement at the 60<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference  
Delivered by the Honorable Dr. Rowena Cristina Guevara  
Undersecretary, Department of Science and Technology**

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Philippines, I congratulate you on your election as President of this historic 60<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. **It is especially an honor for my delegation to see a fellow ASEAN Member State at the helm of this historic meeting.** My delegation assures you of its full support for the successful accomplishment of your tasks ahead.

The Philippines welcomes the membership of Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Islamic Republic of the Gambia into the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. President,

The Philippines and the IAEA have had a long history, spanning almost six decades, marked by fruitful cooperation.

**NUCLEAR APPLICATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

The Philippine experience attests to how the Agency, primarily through the Technical Cooperation Program, has contributed to national development.

It was in this spirit that the **3rd Philippine Nuclear Congress** under the theme “Meeting Challenges through Nuclear Science and Technology for Sustainable Growth” was convened in December 2015. Five hundred representatives and experts from different sectors attended this Congress. We express our appreciation to Director General Yukiya Amano for heading the group of IAEA officials who took part in the Congress.

At this juncture, allow me to mention some examples of how the Philippines has effectively harnessed nuclear science and technology for development through the years:

On achieving zero hunger, we are proud of the successful development of a carrageenan based plant growth promoter (PGP), which is expected to

increase rice yield by 30%, through an IAEA regional project. We expect this product to be made available in large volumes to rice farmers and to the private sector. We thank the Agency, and the Governments of Japan and the United States of America for their support.

On clean water and sanitation, the Philippines was one of three pioneer countries in the IAEA Water Availability Enhancement or IWAVE project. Thanks to funding assistance from the Agency's Peaceful Uses Initiative, the Government adopted the integration of isotope techniques in the national groundwater assessment program.

On clean and affordable energy, the Philippines hosted the Regional Conference on Prospects of Nuclear Energy in the Asia-Pacific Region from 30 August to 01 September. The Conference drew over 150 participants and experts from 15 countries and re-ignited public discussions on a nuclear power programme as a long term option in our pursuit of affordable and clean energy. The Philippines takes this opportunity to reiterate its appreciation to the Agency and the International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation which co-sponsored the Conference.

On the environment, I am honored to inform the Conference that the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute has been re-designated as an IAEA Collaborating Center for Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Studies for the period 2016- 2020. The Philippines is ready to implement the work plan mutually agreed upon with the IAEA, which include the hosting of Agency trainees.

I am also pleased to announce that the Philippine Government this year has funded feasibility studies on the establishment of an accelerator facility and a new nuclear research reactor. Concurrently, an IAEA supported project will utilize the first Philippine Research Reactor and its TRIGA fuel elements for training and education.

The Philippines is pleased to have been tapped as the Team Leader for the expanded regional project "Compendium Materials on Nuclear Science and Technology for High School Teachers" for the 2018-2019 cycle. The new project will cover both East and West Asia and aims to increase awareness and understanding of nuclear and radiation applications among the youth.

Mr. President,

The Philippines, with the support of its international partners and through the Agency's Technical Cooperation Program, took bigger steps in advancing the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. We look forward to

partnering with the Agency in mobilizing nuclear science and technology towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to participating in the First IAEA Conference on Technical Cooperation next year.

## **STRENGTHENING THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME**

Mr President,

The Philippines contributes to strengthening the Technical Cooperation Programme through, among others, hosting training courses, workshops and scientific fellows. As of the end of September 2016, the Philippines will have hosted nine (9) regional events and three (3) on-the job fellows.

The Philippines has also shared in the cost of procurement of some major facilities in national TC projects. We join the call for adequate resources and timely contributions from Member States.

## **MANAGEMENT**

Mr. President,

The Philippines notes the smooth internal coordination among the Departments in the Secretariat as well as between the Secretariat and the Member States.

However, we remain concerned about the inadequate representation of developing countries in the Secretariat, including in the senior and policy-making level. We urge the Secretariat to ensure a more balanced representation from developing countries in its professional personnel complement, including in the Agency's pool of safeguards inspectors.

## **NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND IAEA SAFEGUARDS**

Mr. President,

The Philippines adopts and pursues a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons within its territory. We are committed to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of the global nuclear management regime.

The Philippines is also committed to preserve a community free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in both our Constitution and the ASEAN Charter.

On the basis of these principles, the Philippines expresses grave concern over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile tests which violate numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The Philippines strongly urges the DPRK to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs, return to the NPT, and cooperate with the Agency in implementing its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement.

## **NUCLEAR SAFETY AND NUCLEAR SECURITY**

Mr. President,

The Philippines recognizes the Agency's work in strengthening the global nuclear safety regime, in enhancing the global nuclear safety framework, and, in promoting nuclear safety worldwide.

The Philippine Government is establishing a real time nationwide environmental radiation monitoring network, in cooperation with the Agency, to enhance our capability to cope with nuclear or radiological emergencies. Three monitoring stations are now operational, and we expect to have sixteen operational by the end of the project.

The Philippines remains committed to fulfilling the requirements for nuclear regulation and strongly supports the establishment of a separate and independent nuclear regulatory body.

Mr. President,

The Philippines notes that the overall objective of a State's nuclear security regime is the protection of persons, property, society, and the environment from malicious acts involving nuclear and other radioactive material. In this context, we reiterate our commitment to the principles laid out in the Joint Communiqué of the 4<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Security Summit.

The Philippines' participates in the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee (NSGC) and, as part of our contribution to global nuclear security, we continue to strengthen our capability to monitor and detect illicit or unaccounted radioactive material. We have installed radiation detection monitors in major ports around the country.

The Philippines is committed to playing an active role in strengthening the nuclear security architecture in the national, regional and global levels. In 2017, we will be assuming the chairmanship of ASEAN, which present

opportunities for further strengthening and enhancing the nuclear security and safety architecture in our part of the world.

In closing, as the Agency begins its 60<sup>th</sup> year, the Philippines reaffirms its commitment to the goals and objectives of the Agency and assures Member States and the Agency of our full support and positive engagement. The Philippines appreciates the leadership and initiatives of Director-General Yukiya Amano, commends the direction he has taken the Agency, and intends to support his leadership as Director General of the Agency in the future. The Philippines will continue to be a constructive and dynamic partner of the Agency in the years to come.

Thank you, Mr. President.