

# **INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

**Senior Regulators' Meeting**

**Vienna**

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**Department of Nuclear Safety and Security**



**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very pleased to welcome you to this meeting of Senior Regulators— an annual feature of the IAEA General Conference. As you know, this meeting is organized to provide a forum for senior regulators from our Member States in order to exchange information and experience on current regulatory, policy and technical issues in nuclear safety and security. This meeting also promotes active interaction among senior policy makers of the larger nuclear community attending the General Conference and related events.

Strong and independent regulators, operating under a robust legal framework, are vital for ensuring a high level of nuclear safety and nuclear security. They need to have adequate financial resources and well-trained staff.

Safety measures and security measures have a common aim: to protect human life and health, and the environment. In many countries, the same regulator is responsible for nuclear safety and nuclear security.

But this is not always the case, so it is important that there is good communication between officials responsible for each area. Both safety and security at a facility can be enhanced if interfaces between the two types of measures are properly understood and managed.

The accident at Fukushima Daiichi has overshadowed the work of many of us for the past four and a half years. The report of Director General Amano will be presented tomorrow morning, and this is why this year the Senior Regulators' meeting is split in two parts, one this afternoon on nuclear security and one tomorrow afternoon on nuclear safety. The accident report consists of an Executive Summary and a Summary Report. This is the result of an extensive international effort involving some 180 experts from 42 Member States and several international bodies. The report represents an authoritative, factual and balanced assessment of what happened at Fukushima Daiichi that should also be accessible for a non-technical audience.

In the coming years, we have to look at safety aspects in relation to other important matters, including decommissioning facilities, extending the operating life of existing nuclear power plants - this is linked to the subject of the second session tomorrow afternoon on long term operation and ageing management - disposing of high level radioactive waste, and developing innovative technologies such as fast reactors and new small and modular reactors.

Improving nuclear safety and nuclear security is an issue that will never cease to require our attention and regulators play an essential role.

While nuclear safety and security are primarily the responsibility of individual countries, the Agency has a vital role to play in ensuring international cooperation.

I encourage all countries to make full use of the services which we offer in both areas. These have proven of great benefit, both to the countries in which we have conducted them, and to the wider world with which valuable lessons are shared.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have an interesting agenda for these two days, starting this afternoon with the Session I on Regulatory Challenges for the Security of Radioactive Material and Associated Facilities and continuing tomorrow afternoon with the session II on Ageing Management and Long Term Operation of Nuclear Power Plants.

I welcome the chairpersons for this meeting: Mr Mohd Ali from Malaysia for the session I and Mr Jammal from Canada for the session II.

Mr Hamrah Mohd Ali is Director General of the Malaysian Atomic Energy Licensing Board. He has over 23 years of experience in nuclear regulatory activities on nuclear safety, nuclear security and nuclear safeguards matters. He is the current Chairman of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy and also currently member of the Commission on Safety Standards.

Mr Ramzi Jammal is Executive Vice-President and Chief Regulatory Operations Officer, Regulatory Operations Branch at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). He sits on the Commission on Safety Standards; he led recent Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) missions to Russia and India and co-chaired the IAEA Working Group responsible for drafting the first technical volume on the Description and Context of the Accident as part of the IAEA Fukushima Daiichi Accident Report.

I wish you a successful meeting and look forward to learning about the outcomes.

**Thank you for your attention.**