

**Opening Address to the Participants
of the TM/WS on**

**Topical Issues on Infrastructure Development:
Managing the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear
Power**

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Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency to this workshop on the management of the development of a national infrastructure for nuclear power. Now more than 60 countries are considering or have an interest in introduction of nuclear power in their national energy strategies. The number of requests for TC support projects from these countries increased more than three times in recent years. The Agency is very responsive to these requests and a lot was done in previous years but still more in ahead.

This workshop is the direct follow-up meeting of previous IAEA workshops, in particular workshops on nuclear infrastructure and self-evaluation methodology. It is also based on the practical application of such Agency publications as “Considerations to Launch a NP Programme”, “Milestones”, “Evaluation of the Status of National Nuclear Infrastructure”, results from the first three INIR missions in 2009.

This meeting represents a platform to share experience and lessons learned between Member States involved with planning and introducing nuclear power programs. It is also an opportunity for the participants to identify what we all have to do to ensure a beneficial, responsible and sustainable use of nuclear power.

The introduction of a nuclear power program represents several areas of expertise that need to be combined in an integrated approach. That is why you will hear presentations from different departments of the IAEA. I am pleased to highlight this cooperation as I am pleased to see such a wide and diverse audience to this meeting. Growing interest in nuclear power, particularly among developing countries, is confirmed by your participation.

The Agency will continue to be independent and objective in its assessment and support of newcomers. Approaches for building cooperation, transparency, and trust is an element I would mention and which I believe has to be in the focus of this WS as well.

The Agency can play an important role in coordinating international cooperation. If Member states ask us, we can coordinate multiple sources of assistance in a single country, we can provide the assessment of readiness of national nuclear infrastructure, maturity of national regulatory system, safety culture, etc. We can help establish forums for coordination and sharing experience on implementation of nuclear power programme. And we can provide international workshops, such as this one, to foster a wide exchange of views. Coordination, I believe, benefits newcomers by making comprehensive assistance more effective. And it benefits the international community by improving transparency. The Agency's position about cooperation will be presented and you will have a chance to discuss it during a special panel.

This workshop has been built to answer your needs and address a number of specific issues. Its main objectives are:

1. To exchange specific information and to facilitate the development and implementation of a national infrastructure for nuclear power, especially in the areas of national strategy and human resource development.
2. To discuss good practices and learn about recent experiences in implementing an appropriate infrastructure for nuclear power, including results of the INIR missions in 2009 and cooperation in technology and skills transfer to local industries.
3. To allow participants to improve their knowledge of various aspects of human resource development, education and training, and specific topical areas;

4. IAEA's role and future support in the area; and
5. To provide a forum in which participants can discuss common challenges, opportunities for cooperation and concerns their countries face in the infrastructure implementation process.

One of the key and most challenging factors to a successful Nuclear Power Program is Human Resources development. This issue should be addressed in both national and global contexts and I anticipated that this workshop will help to identify good practices before the International Conference on Human Resource Development for Introducing and Expanding Nuclear Power Programs, organized by the IAEA in March in Abu Dhabi.

Recognizing the right of each country to use nuclear technology as well as its duty to do it right, the IAEA will continue to guarantee its independent, holistic and objective assessment and support to newcomers through INIR missions. The Agency is then developing new concept and intentions to strengthen the services offered to Member States considering or launching nuclear power programs. The respective document "Strengthening Agency Support to Member States Considering or Launching Nuclear Power Program" was presented to the BoG in November 2009. This additional support should be based on the needs of newcomer countries and additional areas of assistance in particular to NPP utilities that would have an impact on new nuclear power programs.

I will then look forwards for the results of this workshop, looking for ways to optimize means for providing assistance to you and to plan further actions on coordination of our common efforts.

I encourage you to participate fully and actively in the workshop and to take advantage of the breakout sessions to express the challenges you are facing as well as of the break to network and learn from each other. As we plan future infrastructure workshops, we will continue to create opportunities for you to talk about your programs.

Before closing my remarks, I would like to thank the co-sponsors of this meeting (the government of France, Japan, the United States of America) for

their continued support as well as, Mr Bill Rasin, who already chaired the previous workshops and who will be a chairman of this workshop.

I hope you have a productive and successful workshop.

Thank you