



Speech by
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Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources

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Excellencies ;

Distinguished Guests ;

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great privilege to address such a distinguished gathering representing top officials in the nuclear and related nuclear energy sectors and members of the international community and notable international organizations. I would like to seize this opportunity to recognize with appreciation the spirit of cooperation that bonds us together. On this occasion, I would like thank the IAEA and the Director General Mr. Yokia Amano for organizing this important conference.

We meet today with great responsibility before us. The repercussions of Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Plant accident are extensive in the public arena. In this regard, I do extend, on behalf of the GOJ and the Jordanian people our deep condolences to the Japanese people and Government of Japan for the tragic loss of human life due to the earthquake and Tsunami that hit Japan on March 11th. We are certain that the Japanese society will reemerge and will overcome this crisis.

Excellencies:

Distinguished Guests:

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Fukushima accident poses a new challenge to the global nuclear industry and surely lessons have to be learnt and applied in order to restore public confidence. Improvements have to be made to enhance nuclear safety and better secure the NPP industry.

Jordan is keen to take into consideration the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident. All necessary measures will be taken to ensure that appropriate feedback is derived from this accident and that lessons learned and important guidelines related to safety will be taken in the frame of the development of Jordan's nuclear power program. However, the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC) remains confident that the overall safety standards and criteria that have currently been incorporated in the technology suppliers bid documents are strong and sound.

Jordan attaches utmost importance to a high level of nuclear safety worldwide. Although nuclear safety is a national responsibility, it has trans-boundary implications and hence international cooperation is indispensable. Jordan is a signatory and strongly supports the international legal instruments developed under auspices

of the IAEA in the field of safety. Jordan has ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety on June, 12, 2009.

JAEC has started the final phase for ranking and selection of the nuclear technology supplier for Jordan's first NPP out of three technologies, namely the Canadian AECL's Enhanced CANDU 6 reactor, the Russian AES-92 VVER-1000 reactor by AtomStroyExport, and French-Japanese ATMEA1, proposed by Areva/Mitsubishi. Our key goal is to select a nuclear reactor and fuel cycle based on GEN III/III+ technologies which meet the highest safety and security standards, in addition to Jordanian regulatory requirements. These reactor technologies have to fully comply with the latest international safety requirements.

In order to practically eliminate any kind of accidental sequence, and to mitigate its possible consequences should they occur anyhow, Jordan's NPP has been initiated by GOJ with an overall objective of applying a very strict commitment to implement the highest possible safety standards presently known. These safety standards will be achieved through:

1. Significantly lowering the probability of occurrence of severe accidents with core melt,

2. Lowering the impact of a severe accident on plant surrounding population and environment; and,
3. Significantly reinforcing the plant capacity to resist external events.

In response to the Fukushima accident, JAEC has reemphasized four measures to potential technology suppliers:

1. Assurance of appropriate siting criteria and siting review,
2. Modern operator accident mitigation strategies.
3. Continued close cooperation with IAEA and adherence to evolving international safety standards; and
4. Incorporation of lessons learned and additional safety features arising from the Fukushima accident.

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

IAEA's commitment to nuclear safety has been continually evolving. The IAEA Safety Standards and their applications are essential components that support the harmonized implementation of the international instruments, such as the Conventions on Nuclear Safety

and the Joint Convention. They also support the development of effective national safety infrastructures more directly to achieve high levels of safety performance.

The global nuclear community should live up to the expectations and energetically confront various challenges to obtain and maintain public confidence in nuclear technology at strategic, programmatic and operational levels.

Maintaining public trust and confidence should be restored. Safety culture has to be strengthened and the nuclear industry has to rise to the challenge of a truly learning organization to avoid any further accidents any place.

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nuclear energy is a global enterprise, and in order to meet the goal of combating global warming, its safety should be a shared concern and duty of the entire international nuclear community.

Jordan's nuclear power programme is distinguished by two major characteristics: transparency, and international recognition and support. Jordan places special emphasis on bilateral and multilateral cooperation to support the country's nuclear power programme. This includes providing political and technical support to the various components of the programme.

Jordan has signed 12 Nuclear Cooperation Agreements (NCAs) with France, China, South Korea, Canada, Russia, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Spain, Japan, Romania, Italy and lastly Turkey.

We also recognize that the key guarantee for safety is qualified human resources. HRD is a major integral part of Jordan's NPP. Jordan is well aware that nuclear energy is a very specialized and sophisticated industry which requires a broad and deeply rooted nuclear education competence to master properly the wide area of sciences and technologies extensively employed in the nuclear domain. A total of 39 Jordanian students are granted scholarships from supplier countries to complete their Master's or Ph.D. degrees in nuclear sciences and engineering. Several hundred Jordanian technicians, engineers and scientists will also be trained by the selected technology supplier as part of EPC contract to become future NPP engineers, operators and managers.

Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I quote Article II of IAEA statutes "The Agency shall seek to accelerate the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world".

We hope that the deliberations of this conference will be a major pillar in a new era enhancing international safety standards and measures in order to restore confidence in civilian nuclear industry. We expect to end up with meaningful, concrete and positive outcomes.

We have to work together in pursuit of our shared goals of nuclear safety and security. There is no doubt that cooperative networking among nuclear safety regulators will contribute to achieving these goals. Emerging nuclear states and countries that have existing and mature nuclear power industry should work together and exchange experiences and best practices in order to revitalize the global nuclear energy renaissance.

Thank you.