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Conference Web Page

<http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Meetings/Meetings2004.asp>

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Please include reference number CN-120
in your written communications.

International Conference on Topical Issues in Nuclear Installation Safety

Continuous Improvement of Nuclear Safety in a Changing World

Beijing, China
18–22 October 2004



IAEA

Organized by the
International Atomic Energy Agency

Hosted by the
Government of China

Objective

The objective of the conference is to foster the exchange of information on topical issues in nuclear safety. The conference will develop an international consensus on the basic approaches for dealing with these issues, and will propose recommendations concerning:

- the present status of these issues;
- priorities for future work;
- need for strengthening international co-operation, including recommendations for future activities for the IAEA, nuclear utilities and regulatory authorities;
- emerging issues having international implications.

Audience

The conference is directed at a broad range of experts in the area of nuclear safety, including professionals from the different disciplines involved in the safety of nuclear power plants (NPPs), installations in other parts of the fuel cycle and research reactors. It is aimed at both licensees and government officials, including persons from regulatory authorities, industry and academia, as well as senior policy makers.

Topics

The following topical issues have been identified as subjects for the conference sessions. Papers related to nuclear installations other than NPPs are welcome and encouraged. The conference will also accept papers related to the safety aspects of non-nuclear industry programmes and facilities (e.g. petrochemical and aeronautical), so as to enrich the discussions and, thereby, provide a wider background on practices related to the management of safety worldwide.

Topical Issue No. 1: Changing Environments – Coping with Diversity and Globalization

This session will address the changing environment in which the nuclear community is now operating. It will consider the challenges being experienced by regulatory authorities, operators and nuclear suppliers as the design, construction and operation of nuclear facilities become more diverse and reflect a more global perspective, and will probe the challenges of information and knowledge management.

Topical Issue No. 2: Operating Experience – Managing Changes Effectively

This session will address how operating experience can and should be used to help manage the changes that are being experienced within the community. Lessons learned from operational events, design and construction challenges, and changes in public expectations are included.

Topical Issue No. 3: Regulatory Management Systems – Adapting to Changes in the Environment

This session will address the unique aspects that regulatory authorities face in dealing with the changing environment. Included would be such challenges as: how to license facilities designed to different standards and criteria; how to sustain effective safety oversight; how to maintain a balance between the risk informed and deterministic approaches in a regulatory framework; and how to ensure that appropriate competencies and skills are retained in the regulatory work force.

Topical Issue No.4: Long Term Operations – Maintaining Safety Margins while Extending Plant Lifetimes

This session will address the unique considerations that are being experienced as more and more installations pursue extended operations, including uprates in some cases. Included will be discussions on how ageing management programmes provide assurance of safety margins, the technical challenges that must be overcome to ensure continued operational safety, and the assurances needed to satisfy public concerns.

Key Deadlines

10 May 2004 – contributed papers (electronic version)

24 May 2004 – paper submission forms (Form B)
grant application forms (Form C)