

TM/Workshop on Evaluation Methodology
for National Nuclear Infrastructure Development
IAEA, Vienna, 10-12 December 2009

Opening Remarks

Y.A. Sokolov

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you to this workshop on evaluation methodology for nuclear infrastructure development. This is the third Agency workshop drawing on the themes in the Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power. I would like to thank the co-sponsors of this workshop -- the Governments of Canada, China, France, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United States of America – for their continued support.

I am very pleased to see such wide and diverse participation. Growing interest in nuclear power, particularly among developing countries, is confirmed by your participation, as well as by the dramatic increase in TC projects on the introduction of nuclear power starting in 2009.

The evaluation methodology that is the main subject of this workshop is a component of building effective, safe, and secure infrastructure for nuclear power. Evaluation is not meant to be a report card, but rather a tool for effective planning. I see integrated nuclear infrastructure review missions as a means for countries to work with the Agency to ensure they are taking a comprehensive

approach to nuclear power as promoted in the Milestones document. Self-assessments will help you identify gaps and areas that need increased attention, and will help focus our assistance on your needs.

Another theme of the workshop is the role of a Nuclear Energy Programme Implementing Organization, NEPIO, in studying the nuclear power option and coordinating the planning among various stakeholders. The Agency will be publishing a Nuclear Energy Series report on the responsibilities and capabilities of a NEPIO for a national nuclear power programme early in 2009. There will also be presentations during this workshop on additional publications in preparation, including responsibilities and capabilities of owner-operator organizations and workforce planning.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight some events from the past year that may be of interest to you, especially a workshop on Vendor Responsibilities conducted in July, and on Technology Assessment conducted a couple of weeks ago. Summaries of these events are available on the website for this workshop.

I am pleased to note that other Departments of the Agency are represented here today. You will hear from the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security regarding recent developments in support of newcomers in the safety area.

This workshop, and previous ones, is an opportunity for experienced nuclear power countries to share their lessons learned with countries that are planning to introduce nuclear power. Among them, especially Korea and Finland will share with us their experience in the early stages of their nuclear power programmes over the next three days. In addition, we are planning to hold a workshop in 2009 to further explore the mutual responsibilities and expectations of supplier and consumer countries of nuclear power technology.

The responsibility that experienced nuclear power countries feel toward newcomers has also taken the form of government-to-government bilateral assistance. This kind of transfer of experience contributes to capacity building. We will continue to look for ways to optimize means for providing assistance. The Agency encourages and looks forward to hearing more about the on-going and planned bilateral assistance programmes for newcomers.

Lastly, it is also very important for developing countries to share their experiences in introducing nuclear power with each other. I encourage you to participate fully and actively in the workshop, and to take advantage of the opportunities during the breaks 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 programmes.

I hope you have a productive and successful workshop. Thank you.