Preparedness and response: a view

Dr. Jaime Salas Kurte
Executive Director
Nuclear Energy Commission of Chile

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Introduction

- Chile: two research reactors, great contribution.
- Additional 10 GW in 10-15 years: an energy challenge.
- A seismic country: public opinion concern.
- The accident: views of dramatic references.
- Contingency plans and national approach: border control and monitoring-evidence.
- Attention to our reactors, doubts, myths and questions: 2010 earthquake (8,8 Richter).
- Proposed actions: technical-political.

Impact in Chile

- Traditionally, Chile has considered Japan a geological reference for siting of nuclear reactors (similar earthquake magnitudes).
- The impact of Fukushima accident on public acceptance in Chile has been significant, given that reference.
- An explosive request for information regarding the accident and nuclear safety in research reactors was observed.
- The possibility of a nuclear programme in Chile might have faded away, at least in the short term. To raise it again would require a significant effort in order to regain public and political acceptance.

Impact in Chile

- In the nuclear field, there are no geographically limited emergencies. They are either regional or international. An accident anywhere is an accident everywhere.
- It is crucially important to spread a balanced understanding about the details of the accident and its emergency: public opinion-technical implications.

Recommendations for action

Technical area

- Attain transparency and visibility about the Fukushima accident and its crisis management.
- Emphasize the promotion and implementation of information sharing.
- Improve the understanding of incidents and emergencies through modeling. Particularly, human response under stress.
- Develop and share lessons learned, systematically.
- Apply IAEA technical leadership in developing and coordinating the design of new reactor concepts. In particular, emphasize the role of initiatives such as INPRO.

Recommendations for action

Technical area

- Attain transparency and increase the relative importance of tsunamis in the nuclear safety series.
- Enhance IAEA capabilities for the understanding of natural phenomena (hidden faults) that may cause nuclear incidents.
- Make the maximum use of CTBTO capabilities tuned for accidents.
- Redesign the INES to distinguish different accidents more precisely.
- Strengthen planning, training and exercises to ensure an effective and efficient response.

Recommendations for action

Political area

- Increase IAEA roles in preparedness and response, harmonising the need for safety and the variety of views and needs of the member States.
- Encourage the use of IAEA capabilities on international preparedness and response practices.
- Make use of IAEA advice on best practices for regaining public acceptance. Several countries may need it, in the rather unknown context of powerful social networks.

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