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ELEVENTH ITER NEGOTIATIONS MEETING (N-11) AND TWELFTH NEGOTIATORS' STANDING SUB-GROUP MEETING (NSSG-12)

by Dr. LUO Delong, Director for International Organizations and Conferences, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, People's Republic of China

The Eleventh ITER Negotiations Meeting (N-11) and the Twelfth Negotiators' Standing Sub-Group (NSSG-12) convened on October 19-25, 2005 at the Kempinski Hotel Chengdu, Sichuan Province. China was the host of this meeting. Delegations from China, the European Union, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, as well as members from the International Team, met there to continue their work to reach agreement on the joint implementation of the ITER international fusion energy R&D project. The delegations accepted the Vice Minister of Science and Technology, Mr. LIU Yanhua, and



Participants at the Meeting

State Councillor, Mr. SHI Dinghuan as Moderators for N-11 and NSSG-12, respectively, and Mr. LUO Delong as Secretary for both meetings.

This was the second time for China to host the ITER Negotiations meeting.

Apart from Vice Minister LIU's sincere welcome, officials and leaders from the local government and the fusion research institute ensured the participants enthusiastically of their assistance. In his welcoming remarks to the delegations, Mr. WANG Shouyi, Deputy Director General of the Sichuan Provincial Science and Technology Department, emphasized the importance of the ITER Project in the search for new sources of energy, not only for China, but for the whole world. He said that ITER is the most significant stage in realizing the dream of creating secure, effective and clean fusion energy. In another banquet, Professor PAN Chuanhong, Director General of the South-western Institute of Physics (SWIP), CNNC, expressed his cordial invitation to all the negotiators to visit the HL-2ATokamak in SWIP, which made much progress since its initial commissioning in 2002.

At the Meeting, delegates discussed and made substantial progress on a full range of legal, technical, and administrative topics, including staffing for ITER, policies for managing the project and its procurements, and the continuing joint drafting of the agreement on establishing the international ITER Organization to implement the project.

Delegates also explored the possibility of India joining the Negotiations. In the light of the reports presented to the Meeting from the recent joint exploratory mission to India, delegates identified a series of steps for the near future leading towards a possible agreement among all the Parties to India's accession.

The Negotiations Meeting also discussed the progress report of NSSG and forward planning and future tasks.

The Negotiators agreed that substantial progress was made on all topics, and delegations are optimistic that the Joint Implementation Agreement and related Annexes and instruments could be initialed in spring of 2006.

As decided by all delegations, the next Twelfth ITER Negotiations Meeting will be held in Korea on 6 December, 2005.

FIFTH PREPARATORY MEETING FOR ITER DECISION MAKING

High level negotiators from China, the European Union, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America met at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna on 7 November 2005 to advance the ITER Negotiations. This was the first such meeting since the successful resolution of the siting issue for ITER at the Meeting of Ministers in Moscow on 28 June 2005.

Designation of Director General Nominee

Following interviews with all Parties, the negotiators unanimously agreed on the proposal of Japan to designate Mr. Kaname IKEDA as Director General Nominee for the prospective ITER Organization. Mr IKEDA, who is currently Ambassador of Japan to Croatia, is a graduate Nuclear Engineer and has extensive experience in the management of large scale high technology projects and international co-operations. The Parties asked Mr. IKEDA to take up his duties promptly.

Possible Accession of India to ITER

The Parties discussed the possibility of accession by India to ITER. All Parties expressed positive views on this possibility and encouraged India to take the next step towards accession by providing a letter to the Parties officially requesting to join ITER. The International ITER Team is now working with the Parties and India to review the necessary adjustments to be made to the provisional allocations among the ITER Parties of responsibilities for procuring of components.

Joint Implementation of ITER

The Parties had constructive discussions of outstanding aspects of joint implementation and agreed on principles to guide the finalization of the draft ITER Agreement and completion of the Negotiations.

Conclusion

With the progress made in the Parties' working level discussions since 28 June and the significant steps made at this meeting, all Parties expressed their wish and expectation that the negotiations will be successfully concluded in the very near future, leading to the start of construction at the earliest possible date. With the possible accession of India, countries representing more than half of the world's population would become part of this unique project to help secure the world's future needs for energy.

Please find below a short presentation of Mr. Ikeda, as well as, in the box, his statement to the participants of the P-5 Meeting in Vienna.

Kaname Ikeda



After studying Engineering at the University of Tokyo up to 1968, Dr. Kaname Ikeda joined the Atomic Energy Bureau (AEB) of the Science and Technology Agency (STA).

In 1984 he became Director of the Nuclear Fuels Division of the AEB-STA, and in 1985 began his diplomatic career by moving as Counselor to the Scientific Section of the Japanese Embassy in Washington. DC.

In 1988 he was appointed Director of the International Affairs Division of the Science and Technology Promotions Bureau of the STA, and from there became Director of the Materials Standards Division of the Agency for Industrial Science and Technology, at the Ministry for International Trade and Industry (MITI).

In 1991 he moved back to STA as Director of the Policy Division of the R&D Bureau, and in 1992 as Director of the Personnel Division of the Minister's Secretariat. After a spell from 1993 as Deputy Director-General at the International Trade Policy Bureau of MITI, he returned again to STA in 1995 as Deputy Director-General of the Science and Technology Promotion Bureau, in 1996 as Director-General of the Nuclear Safety Bureau, and in 1998 as Director-General of the R&D Development Bureau.

In 2000 he was appointed Deputy Minister for Science and Technology at STA, and in 2001, became the Executive Director of Japan's National Space Development Agency.

In 2003 he was appointed Ambassador to Croatia.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and thanks to all delegates.

It is my honor to be here. I was listening to your comments on my nomination, and I already feel my responsibility together with happiness. I promise that I will commit myself to this important project. I fully understand that many researchers devoted themselves for many years and also that you have worked very hard to bring the project to this stage.

I appreciate and like this cooperative atmosphere, you are all here for common objectives which I would like to join. Your decision has changed my whole life from now on. I accept this duty and I will do my best. I appreciate your support and I will always try to listen to your opinions and guidance.

Items to be considered for inclusion in the ITER ITA Newsletter should be submitted to C. Basaldella, ITER Office, IAEA, Wagramer Strasse 5, P.O. Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, or Facsimile: +43 1 2633832, or e-mail: c.basaldella@iaea.org (phone +43 1 260026392).

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