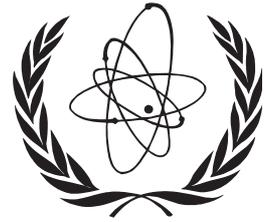


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FIFTH ITER NEGOTIATIONS MEETING

by Dr. M. J. Stewart, President and CEO, Iter Canada

Over the past few weeks much has been accomplished in the quest to reach an international agreement on the joint implementation of the ITER project. Most recently, on 19 – 20 September, delegations from Canada, the European Union, Japan and the Russian Federation met in Toronto, Canada for the Fifth ITER Negotiations Meeting.

This recent Toronto meeting continued the work that is expected to lead to an international agreement on the joint implementation of ITER. Beginning in September 2001, Negotiations Meetings have been hosted by each of the four ITER Participants: Canada in Toronto, Japan in Tokyo, the Russian Federation in Moscow and the European Union in Cadarache, France.

At this meeting, on behalf of the Honourable Herb Dhaliwal, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources, Benôit Serré, his Parliamentary Secretary, welcomed to Canada 78 delegates from the international participants, as well as members of the ITER International Team. He emphasized the importance to the world of the implementation of the ITER project and reaffirmed Canada's recognition of fusion as a promising potential energy source for the future.



Participants in the Meeting

The Negotiators made significant progress on a number of issues—most notably the successful beginning of the process for the selection of a site. Under the framework of the Negotiations, a group of international experts began the Joint Assessment of Specific Sites (JASS). The assessment of the Canadian site proposal at Clarington, near Toronto, was the first performed and was completed just before the Fifth Negotiations Meeting (see following article).

Four offers to host ITER have been submitted and are under consideration. The first was from Canada, submitted on June 7, 2001. On June 5, 2002 three additional site offers were submitted, one from Japan at Rokkasho-mura in Aomori Prefecture, and two from the European Union, one at Cadarache, France and one at Vandellós, Spain. The next assessments will be of the Japanese site in October and of the European sites in December.

Also of significance in the Negotiations was the agreement reached on provisions for the transitional phase towards the possible joint implementation of ITER – the ITER Transitional Arrangements. These arrangements would be under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), represented at the Negotiations Meeting by Dr. Robert E.H. Clark. Dr. Clark noted the IAEA is pleased to offer its continuing support.

In addition, significant progress was made on a wide range of other issues including matters such as further drafting of the Joint Implementation Agreement and the structure of the international organization that would be created by the Joint Implementation Agreement.

During their stay in Toronto, the Negotiators attended special events hosted by supporters of Canada's offer to host ITER, including the Ontario Construction Secretariat, the governments of Ontario and Canada, and the Region of Durham and the Municipality of Clarington.



Delegates attend the Welcome Reception at the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Over the next few months, the negotiators and technical experts have a full schedule of meetings in Japan, Spain, France, and the Russian Federation with a view to finalizing JASS by early next year and completing the drafting of the Joint Implementation Agreement by mid-2003.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the delegations were unanimous in expressing their optimism at the substantial progress made on the issues critical to the implementation of the ITER project, in particular the successful beginning to the process for the Joint Assessment of Specific Sites. It is expected that progress will continue to accelerate at the Sixth Negotiations Meeting to be held in Aomori, Japan on October 29th and 30th.

JOINT ASSESSMENT OF SPECIFIC SITES FOR ITER BEGINS AT CLARINGTON by Dr. M. J. Stewart, President and CEO, Iter Canada

Clarington, Ontario, Canada was the subject of the first official stage of the Joint Assessment of Specific Sites (JASS) for the ITER Project. The Assessment is part of the Negotiations process and is being conducted by an Ad-Hoc Group of the Negotiators with representatives from Canada, the European Union, Japan and the Russian Federation, supported by the ITER International Team. There are five groupings of specific criteria that the Ad-Hoc Group is using in the assessment including Technical Aspects, Socio-Cultural Aspects, Licensing Aspects, Relations between the Host Country and the International Organization (ITER Legal Entity), and Financial Aspects.

From a technical perspective, a wide range of factors are under consideration: the land area, access to and stability of the electricity power grid, seismic characteristics, the road, rail and water facilities for transport of components to the site, and the availability and expertise of the construction and operational workforce. Socio-cultural aspects include the quality of and access to education and health facilities, the range of lifestyle options, the cultural and recreational opportunities that would be available to the families of the ITER scientists who would come to work at the ITER facility, and the support of the local community for the project. The regulatory framework governing the licensing for the project is also being considered.



The Clarington site is located on the northern shore of Lake Ontario in the Greater Toronto Area.

The evaluation was conducted over four days through a series of visits to the site itself (located between the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station and the St. Mary's Cement plant), a review of materials included in Canada's submission to host ITER, presentations from the group leading Canada's offer and experts on specific aspects of the offer, and a tour of the Greater Toronto Area and the community of Clarington.

A team of over 100 experts participated on behalf of Canada including representatives from governments, academia, the private sector, community leaders and service providers.



JASS participants at the spot where the tokamak would be located on the proposed ITER site at Clarington

Co-incident with the site assessment process were visits to Clarington by community representatives from Aomori, Japan and from Vandellos, Spain. They toured Canada's proposed site and visited Clarington community leaders.

This assessment was the first of an ITER site and it was successfully conducted. As a result, the same process will be followed in the upcoming evaluation of the Japanese site at Aomori in October, and in December at the French site at Cadarache and the Spanish site at Vandellos.

LIFE GOES ON

by Dr. Genn Saji, former Head of Safety Division, ITER San Diego JWS

Alex Kashirski, who was a member of the ITER Joint Central Team Safety Division, passed away on 29 September 1998 (see ITER EDA NEWSLETTER VOL.7, NO.9). Four years after this tragedy, Katya Golubchikova, former secretary of the Safety Division, and I were able to visit the Kashirski family, now in Moscow, on 21 September, 2002.

Alex was survived by his wife Natasha, and by two sons, Dennis and Andrei. They live together in an apartment of about 80 m² in Krylatskoye, which is located at the outskirts of Moscow, about 30 minutes by a subway from downtown Moscow. Natasha is keeping the apartment very cosy and treated us to a table full of Russian cuisine. She noted that most of the vegetables on the table were grown at their country house. Natasha is now working as an information technology (IT) communication engineer, involved in building an IT highway with fiber optics for a railway company. Dennis, thanks to support from friends of ITER in Sand Diego even after the closure of the San Diego ITER Joint Work Site, got a BS in Computer Science from the University of California in San Diego in 2001, and worked in a US company as an intern, before he returned to Moscow in 2001 to live with his mother and younger brother. He is now working as an IT engineer for a bank in Moscow and is trying hard to get himself fully integrated in Russian society, after nearly ten years of absence from Russia, during which time the country has drastically changed in almost every way. It was heart- warming to see his fatherly attitude in the family. Andrei is now grown up, even taller than the late Alex, to become a sophomore in a high school. He is a very good student and is already allowed to take some college courses twice a week. Currently he hopes to enter the State University of the School of Economics.

So I was happy to find them all doing very well. However, I had to realize the sad reality that nothing can substitute for the role of Alex as a loving father in their family. It was touching for me to find Alex's guitar he used to play for us at parties, his piano, and his picture taken at Dr. Ed. Cheng's residence in Rancho Santa Fe, without Alex in his bedroom. Natasha still keeps all of Alex's books on physics. Andrei needs a father's love and advice more than ever now until he finishes his education and finds his position in the society.

As I see it, the Kashirski family still needs the moral support of many people. We should share our warm hearts with each other, to be an ITER family. This, in the end, is one of the most attractive parts of ITER as an international project.



In Kashirski's Moscow apartment: Dennis, G. Saji, Andrei. and Natasha

I request all of our ITER colleagues to keep warm feelings for the family of our late Alex and of the families of other ITER participants, who passed prematurely away. Kashirski's family, in particular, can be reached by Dennis' private e-mail address: dkash78@yahoo.com.

Thinking about the future of ITER, I would like to stress that in connection with the ITER siting, everyone should understand what it means to be relocated to a foreign site for a prolonged time, affecting family lives for good or bad. Those working towards ITER's siting, construction and operation should appreciate the importance of the 'human being' who is working for the realization of fusion and every effort should be made to support the families of the international members, even after their return to their home countries.

Items to be considered for inclusion in the ITER CTA Newsletter should be submitted to B. Kuvshinnikov, 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).