

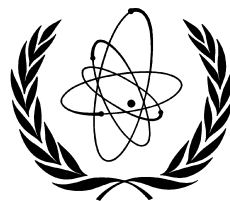
**STATEMENT TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT FOR INTRODUCING  
AND EXPANDING NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAMS**

**Abu Dhabi**

**15 March 2010**

**Yukiya Amano**

**Director General**



**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to open this IAEA conference on *Human Resource Development for Introducing and Expanding Nuclear Power Programmes*. I am very grateful to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this important event.

As you know, the world is witnessing a resurgence of interest in nuclear power. The IAEA has projects on introducing nuclear power with no fewer than fifty-eight of our Member States. We expect between 10 and 25 new countries to bring their first nuclear power plants on-line by 2030. These are momentous changes.

However, some countries are concerned about a possible shortage of skilled professionals in the nuclear field in the coming decades. The generation of professionals who built and led the nuclear power industry for much of the past 50 years is approaching retirement and in some countries there are not enough students coming up through the educational system to take their place.

Naturally, we at the IAEA want to do all we can to help Member States address this issue. That is why we have organized this conference.

The situation is different in different countries. For countries with *expanding* nuclear power programmes, the challenge is to scale up their existing education and training in order to have the required qualified workforce on time.

Countries planning to *supply* nuclear technology to others not only have to meet their national human resource needs, but must also be able to transfer education and training capacity together with the technology they provide.

Finally, countries *embarking* on nuclear power cannot become too dependent on their technology supplier and need to develop their own home-grown expertise and skills base.

The Agency would be happy to help interested States to formulate country-specific policies on human resource development, education, training and knowledge management in support of nuclear power programmes.

We could also help countries make better use of training facilities, research reactors and other educational infrastructure. We could play a role in ensuring high standards for nuclear education and training and establish a framework for countries to recognize each other's educational qualifications.

I look forward to hearing the ideas of this very knowledgeable and distinguished audience and wish you every success with the conference.