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Statement by Mr. Woravat Auapinyakul
Minister,
Ministry of Science and Technology, Thailand
at The Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety
December 15, 2012
Fukushima Prefecture, Japan

~~Mr. President,~~
~~Mr. Director-General~~
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, Thailand would like to associate itself/ with the statement/ made by H.E.Mr.Koichiro GEMBA/ and H.E. Dr. Maximus James Ongkill/ on behalf of ASEAN.

We wish to express our gratitude/ towards Mr. Yukiya Amano, the IAEA Director General, for initiating the first/ and the current Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, which will strengthen/ the global nuclear safety, emergency preparedness, and radiation protection/ for people and the environment. Furthermore, we wish to express/ our sincere gratitude/ to the Government of Japan/ in co-sponsorship this conference/ to be held in Fukushima Prefecture, Japan.

~~Mr. President,~~

Ladies and Gentlemen

After the Fukushima accident in March 2011, the nuclear and radiation authorities/ including the utilities worldwide/ have increased their recognition/ to the importance of the nuclear safety, both in terms of accident prevention/ and impact mitigation.

The Action Plan on Nuclear Safety/ has been developed under the leading role of the IAEA/ to ensure the responsibility and strengthening/ of global nuclear safety framework, and to encourage the implementation/ of the Action Plan to address an emergency preparedness/ and radiation protection of people/ and the environment. 24

In this regard, Thailand would like to address the progress/ on implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety;

One - To strengthen the effectiveness/ of national regulatory body/ on emergency preparedness and response; The Office of Atoms for Peace (or OAP), as Thailand's national nuclear/ and radiation independent regulatory body, will be the focal point on nuclear/ and radiation emergency of the country. With its own regulations on usage permission, the OAP will encourage relevant organizations/ on nuclear and radiation utilization/ under IAEA Safety Standards.

Two - To strengthen the International legal framework; Thailand is a contracting party/ to both Convention on Early Notification/ of a Nuclear Accident, and Convention on Assistance/ in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. Our legislations involving nuclear technology, liability and emerging population/ are being reviewed and revised. Once the new Act on nuclear/ and radiation regulatory has been passed by the Parliament, Thailand will be able to join/ ***the Convention on Nuclear safety, and the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management/ and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management.***

Three - To strengthen and maintain capacity building; All of the relevant organizations in Thailand/ are providing sufficient/ and competent human resources necessary/ to be responsible for safety - and sustainable use/ of the nuclear power technology. The development/ such as conducting the examination/ and granting the license for the Radiation Safety Officer/ (RSO)/ and for the Research Reactor Operator/ indicates the practice will be examined/ and qualified in the future.

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Four - To utilize research and development, and to ensure the on-going protection/ of people and environment from ionizing radiation; Thailand has established/ the regional operation centers/ to perform the initial responses/ to the emergency radiation/ and nuclear events. The Center of excellence/ on forensic science, National ionizing radiation metrology center, and researches related to the nuclear safety/ have been organized to gain advanced knowledge. The environmental radiation monitoring project, including gamma-radiation monitoring stations/ and underwater environmental gamma-radiation monitoring systems/ will be set up/ to ensure the safety of people/ and environment from any ionizing radiation hazards.

Since the use of nuclear technology/ and its application have been increasing in many areas, it is very important to raise public awareness, and to promote public acceptance. The dissemination of information/ on the basis of transparency/ is the most effective way of communication.

~~Mr. President,~~

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the regional level, as we are approaching the ASEAN Community in 2015, the region will have to develop/ closer cooperation

on nuclear related issues. An accident in nuclear facility in one country/ will have unavoidable impact on others. That is why Thailand has proposed establishing a network/ of nuclear regulatory bodies in Southeast Asia, and encourages the cooperation/ in regional and international levels/ in order to strengthen nuclear safety, security and safeguards.

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Lastly, I wish to restate Thailand's full support/ and confident in the work of the Agency/ with the leadership of H.E. Yukiya Amano, the Director General. We will continue to work closely/ with the international community/ in enhancing global nuclear safety, security and safeguards, in consistent with the IAEA global nuclear safety framework/ and other relevant conventions. I also believe that/ with the goodwill/ and commitment of all parties gathering here, we can connect nuclear technology effectively/ to make a better life for all our peoples, which is the shared ultimate objective of us all.

Thank you very much.

