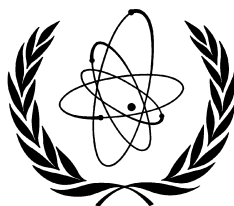


INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS' MEETING
ON
DECOMMISSIONING AND REMEDIATION AFTER A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

DDG Opening Remarks

Vienna, Austria
28 January - 1 February 2013

Mr Alexander Bychkov
Deputy Director General
Head of the Department of Nuclear Energy



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

I want to thank you all for your participation in the International Experts' Meeting on Decommissioning and Remediation after a Nuclear Accident. Your involvement, in such large numbers, confirms that this meeting is timely and the issues being discussed are of great importance to the international nuclear community.

Any significant nuclear accident results in challenges in terms of the decommissioning of the damaged facilities and in many cases also in the remediation of contaminated areas outside the site boundary. These challenges include the application of appropriate technological and human resources, public involvement and the allocation of the necessary financing, which is of course considerable.

There can be no real future for nuclear energy unless the global community is convinced that the legacies associated with its use can be addressed satisfactorily, whether in connection with facilities contaminated as a result of a nuclear or radiological accident, or indeed large facilities used for research or other purposes during the developmental phase of the nuclear industry.

It is evident that decommissioning and remediation projects, especially for nuclear facilities and sites after an accident, will continue to be undertaken for many decades, over which time it is expected that technological developments will occur. It will be important that the new and more sophisticated technologies of the future are applied to these activities. However we should also be aware that in case of dealing with accident-damaged facilities there is a great deal to be learnt from the experience from the past 60 years and this meeting is focused directly on reviewing and distilling that experience.

The Agency is committed to assisting Member States in finding solutions to those issues that prevent progress being made in moving ahead with the cleanup of nuclear sites in an environmentally responsible manner. This International Experts' Meeting will give us important advices as to what the Agency, and the international community in general, can do in this regard. Considerable specialist knowledge, expertise and lessons learned are available worldwide in areas such as decontamination, dismantling, remediation and the management of generated radioactive waste. International cooperation will help to ensure that the best available technologies and good practices are applied to dealing with these issues.

Potential benefits from closer cooperation with the international decommissioning and remediation community include facilitating access to technologies and human expertise that otherwise may not be available in a particular Member State. Better mechanisms for sharing of information are likely to be an important element of achieving faster progress with decommissioning and remediation programmes in future. This is especially important for the facilities and sites in decommissioning and remediation after a nuclear or radiological accident.

As part of our assistance to the Japanese authorities and organizations we are currently preparing for an international peer review of the mid-and-long term roadmap towards the decommissioning of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station (units 1-4). The review will be carried out in 2013. We are also having on-going discussions with the Japanese authorities about other support mechanisms. I hope that these discussions will be concluded later this year.

In conclusion, I am convinced that this meeting will provide important perspectives on the above issues, and will be helpful in clarifying the

main priorities for future activities by the IAEA and its Member States. I wish to express my gratitude to the chair, co-chairs, invited speakers, panellists, authors of posters and indeed to all participants. The success of the meeting will depend crucially on your involvement.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and now I turn the meeting over to your chairman, Mr Carl-Magnus Larsson.