

# **International Experts Meeting on Human and Organizational Factors in Nuclear Safety in the Light of the Accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant**

DDG Closing Remarks

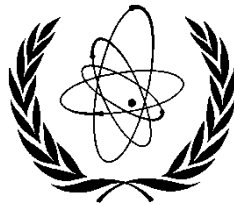
Vienna, Austria

24 May 2013

Mr. Denis Flory

Deputy Director General

Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security



INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Good Morning ladies and gentlemen

I would now like to take the opportunity to make a few final remarks before I bring this International Experts Meeting to a close.

As I mentioned on Tuesday afternoon, this is the fifth in a series of International Experts' Meetings that the Secretariat has organized under the framework of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. This meeting has been very well supported and I would like to thank you all for taking the time out of your very busy schedules to attend this meeting. I believe that through the exchange of views and ideas we have had this week, we are continuing to take significant steps forward in our efforts to learn the lessons from the Fukushima nuclear accident with the ultimate aim of strengthening nuclear safety worldwide.

I would like to express my appreciation for your Chairperson, Marta Ziakova and her two co-chairs Kathleen Heppel-Masys and Ian Grant for their sterling efforts in successfully leading this meeting. Their contributions to the meeting have been important for the success and the high level of engagement you have experienced. The proceedings of the last few days have been conducted with an extraordinary openness and transparency, with experts sharing their experiences and lessons learned in the aftermath of the Fukushima accident. I am pleased that this forum has been utilized also for sharing good practises and experiences in the area on human and organizational factors, ITO and safety culture.

Many new insights have been identified this week, revealing that we have much to do together for moving forward in the area of Human and Organizational Factors, ITO and safety culture. We have seen that there is a need to recognize the state of the art research in this area and convert it into practical applications for the nuclear industry.

I would like to highlight the three aspects that were emphasized during the course of this meeting.

- First, your discussions this week made it evident that further application of expertise in Human and Organizational factors and safety culture are needed to achieve a systemic approach that should be an integral part of our approach to nuclear safety. We need to consider how these insights can be implemented within the concept of Defence in Depth.
- Second, the lively discussions on regulatory body safety culture, shows that broader thinking is needed with regard to the influence of the regulator's culture on licensees. The IAEA is prepared to support Member States in this aspect with workshops and training events on safety culture self-assessments for regulatory bodies as well as for the operating organizations.
- Third, it was emphasized many times during the meeting that severe, unexpected accidents can happen and therefore we need to be prepared for managing the unexpected. One approach is to build resilient capabilities in nuclear organizations by learning not only from events and accidents, but also focussing on the more positive aspects.

I would like to emphasize what I said to you on Tuesday, we need to stay away from complacency and be prepared for the unthinkable.

Finally I would like to thank you for providing concrete ideas for the way forward by identifying the actions that should be taken in the area of Human and Organizational Factors, ITO and Safety Culture to strengthen nuclear safety. These ideas, results, lessons will also be used as a building brick for the preparation of the IAEA comprehensive report on the Fukushima accident that we have started to prepare with more than a hundred experts from around the world, with a goal for completion towards the end of 2014.

I wish you a safe return to your home countries, and look forward to future collaborations.

I now declare this International Experts' Meeting closed.