

Summary of the Meeting

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Chairman
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Thank you Mr. Chairman

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

We have come to the end of the meeting. I wish I could give you a meaningful summary of it, but it is impossible for me to do so due to a wide variety of topics and opinions exchanged during the meeting that reflect a great deal of experience and great perceptivity of distinguished delegates. Therefore I would like to comment on what I think of major importance in each session and present a few thoughts that have developed for such matters.

The meeting was opened by warm welcome addresses by the Honorable Dr. Hatta, The State Minister for Research and Technology, Indonesia and the Honorable Mr. Haku, The Senior Vice-Minister of Cabinet Office, Japan.

Following the opening session, the representatives of FNCA member countries reported a short summary of the current status and the future plan of nuclear research, development and utilization in their countries based on an informative written report on the national situation prepared by them beforehand. Listening to these reports, I concluded that each country has been striving to achieve a vigorous progress in various areas of peaceful use of nuclear energy including radiation and radioactivity applications and nuclear power generation.

In most countries radiation and radioactivity are applied to the problems of science, engineering, agriculture, industry, and medicine actively and the government is fully committed to a wider and deeper utilization of radiation and radioactivity in the context of peaceful use of nuclear science and engineering.

As for nuclear power, most countries have expressed that they regard it as one of important electricity sources that can satisfy increasing demand for electricity, energy security and suppression of greenhouse gas emission in the future even after the Fukushima Daiichi accident. At the same time most expressed that they had been experiencing difficult time owing to the severe impact of the accident upon the public opinion and were taking cautious attitude toward the introduction of or the increase in the nuclear power generation, paying due attention to the increased need for assurance of safety of NPP and to the increased complexity in the promotion of such activities in political arena.

In the sessions to discuss the progresses in the activities being promoted in the framework of the FNCA, we could confirm firstly that researchers who are participating in the R&D

projects related to the radiation and radioactivity applications in each country have been eagerly pursuing the realization of the contribution of radiation and radioactivity applications to the people's welfare and or to the economic development of their country. Therefore it was quite appropriate for the meeting to point out the importance of facilitating effective communication and collaboration among researchers in these fields and users of the research products in concurrent manner so as to cultivate synergetic effect that will accelerate the achievement of the objective of these R&Ds.

It has been widely recognized that countries that are considering the introduction of nuclear power face the challenge of building the necessary national nuclear infrastructure as a nuclear power program involves issues associated with nuclear material, ionizing radiation and the related challenges. Recognizing that this is a major undertaking requiring careful planning, preparation and investment in a sustainable infrastructure that provides legal, regulatory, technological, human and industrial frameworks for ensuring that the nuclear material is used exclusively for peaceful purpose and in a safe and secure manner, the FNCA was embarked on the projects to cooperate for the development of nuclear infrastructure among member countries. It was reported that the coordinators jointly agreed that the ANTEP program that was established as a key tool for the FNCA member countries to pursue human resources development activities in cooperative manner should be improved its effectiveness and better reflect the needs of FNCA countries.

As for the study panel on nuclear power for sustainable development, the meeting maintained its recognition that it is an effective way of mutual learning about the desirable characteristics of nuclear infrastructure necessary for enjoying the benefit of nuclear power generation in any country as well as about the experience of and lessons learned from public communication as to the introduction and the coexistence of nuclear facilities with local resident in member countries. I also feel it important to start the consideration of possible cooperation in the FNCA region for mutually enhancing emergency preparedness and response capability, taking into consideration of dramatic innovation of information technology being realized in global community, though it may not necessarily be a FNCA-limited activity. Anyway I would like to see the continuation of this kind of efforts.

We discussed the future of the FNCA based on the recognition of these progresses identified in the meeting so far. If any single conclusion can be drawn from the session, it is simple that let us work hard to come up something really good for all as there is an strong awareness of the usefulness of the FNCA activities that provide the opportunity not only for mutually beneficial cooperation but also for mutually beneficial learning of greater insight into the very important socio-economic as well as scientific and engineering subjects related with the peaceful use of nuclear energy in the region, based on real experience of industrial application, public information, communication and dialogue including the role of experts in these settings. It was also mentioned that we should explore possible coordination and cooperation with related activities in other international forums like IAEA, ASEAN+3 and so on.

Before closing, we are all indebted to the Honorable Dr. Hatta, the State Minister for Research and Technology, and his team including peoples of BATAN who have made this meeting so efficient and our stay so enticingly wonderful socially. So Your Excellency, Minister Hatta, on behalf of all delegates to this meeting, I would like to ask you to convey our deep appreciation to your team for a wonderful meeting.

Finally I would like to inform you that the next FNCA Ministerial Meeting be held in Tokyo in the end of next year.