

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT
by Ambassador Mitsuru KITANO,
Director-General, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science
Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
At the 10th Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-proliferation (ASTOP X)
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The 10th Asian Senior-level Talks on Non-Proliferation (ASTOP) has been hosted by Japan on 20th November 2013 in Tokyo. Twelve Asian nations and four other nations participated in the meeting. In concluding the 10th Anniversary ASTOP meeting, the chair states as follows;

1. Accomplishments of the ASTOP in the past decade

The ASTOP has made significant contributions to non-proliferation efforts in the region throughout the past ten years through facilitating discussion on relevant non-proliferation issues and thus promoting common ground on the importance of non-proliferation. We have witnessed increased awareness of the importance of and commitments to IAEA safeguards, particularly the importance of transparency in reassuring the international community of the peaceful nature of countries' nuclear activities. Since 2003, four countries (the Republic of Korea (2004), Singapore (2008), the Philippines (2010) and Vietnam (2012)) have brought IAEA Additional Protocols into force and three other countries - Thailand (2005), Malaysia (2005) and Myanmar (2013) - have signed the protocols.

Other remarkable accomplishments of the ASTOP include building enhanced awareness of the importance of strengthening export control systems in the region. We welcome in this context the efforts to establish the comprehensive legal frameworks for export control in Malaysia, Singapore and Philippines.

2. Emerging Challenges

At the same time, given new emerging challenges in the region, we need to reinforce our engagement and cooperation against WMD proliferation. In this context, it was discussed that the countries need to tackle new challenges including procurement below the threshold of the control lists of international export control regimes, more demand for high-tech items and material, countries' expanded capabilities to produce dual-use items as well as more diversified proliferation routes and other sophisticated procurement techniques by proliferators.

Economic growth in the region is enabling more countries to introduce or expand nuclear power programs. In addition, increasing demand on nuclear power increases the risks of nuclear proliferation and safety. The economic growth is also helping increase interest in the area of nuclear applications such as medical use of radioactive sources. The concerning parties should intensify their efforts to meet these challenges.

3. Future non-proliferation efforts and the ASTOP's potential role

First and foremost, to meet these new challenges, the participants shared the view that further strengthening the effectiveness of the IAEA safeguards systems and universalization of the Additional Protocol are of utmost importance. To this end, participants are of the view that more cooperation is required for countries to establish national legal systems and enhance capacity-building.

Second, participants recognized the importance of export control measures being implemented more effectively by regional partners. The participants also share the view that the countries concerned should strengthen their export control measures

in accordance with their national legal frameworks as well as international obligations. In particular, the participants discussed the significance of measures to counter inadvertent proliferation through the region. In this context, the chair drew the attention of the participants to the challenge that countries are now increasingly confronted with the challenges related to multilayer procurement networks, identification of false end-use and end-user declaration as well as transit and trans-shipment. In relation to this, the chair pointed out that the countries without strategic controls should be encouraged to introduce such measures. The chair reinforced the view that effective export control measures were conducive not just to countering the proliferation of WMD – which was in all countries' security interest – but also to recognition of a country as a reliable trade partner and hence, enhance rather than impeding its economic growth.

Thirdly, facing the expanding peaceful uses of nuclear and radiological material, the participants discussed the importance of tackling, among other challenges, the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism. In light of this, the participants reaffirmed the need to promote capacity building of relevant authorities and operators in each country in order to tackle these threats as well as the need to continue building confidence among countries in the region by improving their nuclear security and sharing good practices.

It is encouraging that ASTOP continues to deepen and expand non-proliferation dialogue within the region each year. The chair extends his sincere gratitude to all the participants for their active contribution to the discussion. The chair invites all participating countries to join the next round of talks, with a view to further promoting fruitful dialogue and cooperation, in furtherance of all of our interests.

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