

15th Annual Meeting of APSN, at Krabi , November 5-6, 2024

Session 2 (15th Anniversary Session)

Deputy Secretary General Ms. Pennapa Kanchana,
DDG Mr. Massimo Apalo,
Vice Governor Mr. Suwit Suriyawong,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the chair of the steering committee (SC) as well as one of the four founding states, Japan would like to commend the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the APSN---Asia Pacific Safeguard Network. My deepest appreciation to the Government of Thailand, especially the Office of Atoms for Peace (OAP) for hosting this meeting. Deep gratitude also goes to the IAEA which has provided continuous support. I would also like to thank the Krabi province for hosting us at this beautiful venue and its warm hospitality.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In October 2009, the APSN was launched with the aim of facilitating safeguards cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region against the backdrop of increasing demand of nuclear energy. Through its 15 years of activities, APSN has strengthened safeguards capabilities of the members, promoted regional cooperation and contributed to international safeguard regime. To give an example, during this period, four APSN member states concluded the Additional Protocols and three amended SQP. APSN has served as a platform to share good practices and lessons learned on safeguards implementation among the members. In this connection, Japan is pleased to have held several regional workshops and seminars. These contributions were shared beyond the region as well through IAEA INFCIRC.

I think we should all be proud of the history of APSN and I would like to thank all the member states as well as the IAEA for its successful 15 years.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Much have been achieved but our efforts cannot stop --- and that is why we are still gathering today. Asia pacific region is world's most rapidly developing economies, and naturally, there is a growing demand for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. And in order to facilitate its use, building trust through IAEA safeguards is indispensable. In this context, we need to further enhance the network of safeguards experts within the region; we need to keep updating relevant information and good practices; we need to continue capacity building based on current needs. And the APSN provides the only platform for doing so in this region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Japan, as the only country to have suffered from the atomic bombing as well as a country fully committed to the NPT/IAEA regime, would like to reiterate our strong support for the APSN. Bearing in mind our proud 15 years of achievements, I look forward to fruitful discussions and exchanges during this week.

Thank you very much. (End)