

**Statement by
H.E. Eng. Mahmoud S. Balbaa
Minister of Electricity and Energy
of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

Delivered by Dr/Khalil Yasso

**To the Fukushima Ministerial
Conference on Nuclear Safety**

**Fukushima Prefecture,
Japan**

15-17 December 2012,

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me convey the best wishes of the Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy H.E. Eng. Mahmoud Balbaa for a successful conference, and his sincere apologies for not being able to be amongst us today due to un-precedented engagements that required him to remain in Cairo, and thus delegating me with his great honor of addressing such a distinguished gathering.

and I Quote:

- H.E. Mr. K. Gemba - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan,
- Dr. Maximus Ongkili - Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation of Malaysia,
- Mr. Yukia Amano – Director General of the IAEA,
- Distinguished Ministers, Heads of delegations and dignitaries,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join hands with all the other previous distinguished speakers, in commending on behalf of the Government of Egypt our host country "Japan", the co-President "Malaysia", and the co-sponsor and organizer of this conference "IAEA" for having made this conference possible in Fukushima Prefecture which

has been the scene of one of the most destructive natural disasters. Furthermore, a special gratitude should be paid to the brotherly people of Japan for their strength and willingness to prevail and overcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt and Japan enjoy a special relationship which is based on mutual respect and understanding that enabled the expansion of joint co-operation especially in the fields of energy, education and investment. We sincerely look forward to further expanding such co-operation in the future.

While we gather here today to learn from the lessons of the Fukushima Daiichi accident, we honor our victims by remembering them, and look into the future by drafting an improved architecture of nuclear safety, and further enhancing the national and international instruments related to it. Maybe it also represents a good opportunity to defend our firm belief that nuclear power is as safe as a proven technology through its long history. We elaborate upon this by the case of Fukushima, where thousands of people lost their lives, but none of them due to the Daiichi nuclear accident that followed the earthquake and tsunami, a fact that was unfortunately overlooked by many of the anti-nuclear campaigns.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt was one of the developing countries to realize from the early days of nuclear energy, that nuclear power could be utilized to overcome two of the major challenges to the development of mankind, namely the sustainable supply of both electricity and water. Egypt was interested in the co-generation of Nuclear Power Plants as early as 1964, when it issued specifications for a dual purpose Nuclear Power Plant to be built at Borg El-Arab, 30km west of Alexandria. The plant was intended to be a 150 MW nuclear power station and a 20,000 m³/day desalination plant.

Egypt was motivated to consider the introduction of nuclear power, by the following factors:

- Steadily increasing demand for electricity.
- Insufficient known national fossil energy resources and almost full utilization of hydro power.
- Renewable energy resources, such as solar and wind energy are abundant but they are expected to become major sources of energy supply, especially for base load, for the years to come.
- Achieve long term sustainable development for future generations.

These reasons have not only retained their validity, but have been reinforced by the developments which have

been taking place.

In 2007, Egypt declared its intention to restart its nuclear power program depending on its own capabilities and in cooperation of its Partners and IAEA. Since that time, Egypt has taken several important steps to launch its NPP, which included:

- A Nuclear Law was issued in March 2010,
- An independent Nuclear Regulatory body was established in 2012,
- Development of human resources through cooperation with IAEA ^{and} the nuclear technology supply countries.
- Preparation of the tendering documents of the first nuclear power plant.

In Egypt, we think it is important to implement the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety (APNS) worldwide, ~~whether through cooperation between countries with mature nuclear power plant programs and/or with new comer states.~~ We have benefited a lot from the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety (APNS) in updating the tender documents of the first nuclear power plant.

I also would like to emphasize on international cooperation among the countries with mature nuclear power plant programs and/or with new comer states. In particular, in enhancing newcomer's regulatory bodies through transferring practices and measures taken in

advanced nuclear power states regulatory bodies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt has never backed out on any of its national, regional and international obligations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Needless to say, that in light of the recent political, socio-economic and security developments in Egypt, there is a slight slowdown in the pace of progress towards the construction of Egypt's first nuclear power plant. However, we are confident that Egypt will emerge in the near future even stronger and capable in the right direction, and without any change in its fixed global positions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Last but not least, we in Egypt share the opinion that this High Level Conference will provide an opportunity for learning further lessons that will pave the way for promising and bright future for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Me and my delegation sincerely look forward to a successful conference and fruitful exchanges on the sidelines.

THANK YOU.