

**Statement by the Director-General,
State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom", S.V. Kirienko
Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety
15 December, 2012
Koriyama, Japan**

Co-Chairs, distinguished delegates,

1. From the very beginning Russia supported the initiative put forward by the Government of Japan to hold a Ministerial conference on nuclear safety here, in the Fukushima Prefecture.

We expect that professional and honest exchange of views will allow us not just to better understand the lessons learnt from the Fukushima accident, but also identify the key directions of our future activities aimed at the enhancement of the international nuclear safety regime.

2. In this regard I would like to note with satisfaction fruitful large-scale work performed by the IAEA under the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety. The entire IAEA safety standards system is being revised in the most comprehensive manner.

The Program on the participation of Russian entities and agencies in the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety has been developed in Russia. We have submitted our Program to the Agency and we inform the Board of Governors on the regular basis on the implementation of the domestic actions. A cost-free Russian expert is working in the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Team.

We are satisfied with the results of the second extra-ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety that took place in August, 2012. Its participants have unanimously spoken in favour of the increased effectiveness of the Convention. We welcome the establishment of the 'effectiveness and transparency' working group on the enhancement of the Convention efficiency.

We expect that similar work will be done on the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, which is of vital importance, because Fukushima has demonstrated the deficiencies of the current accident notification mechanisms and the existence of a number of unresolved organizational, legal and financial issues associated

with providing assistance to a country, suffering from such an accident.

Russia deems significant the broadening of functional capabilities of the Response and Assistance Network (RANET). We urge all countries, operating and constructing nuclear power plants to join RANET. Moreover, we believe it is necessary to establish the potential for providing expert technological assistance during an accident at the NPP site in addition to current RANET capabilities related to radiological and medical support. However, the RANET mechanism will be efficient only under the condition of expanded national capabilities and preparedness of the RANET participants to provide international assistance.

Such a potential has been established in Russia. We have an efficient NPP technical support network. These are 14 Centers, each with its own technological orientation (monitoring and forecast of the reactor facilities' condition; forecast of the environmental radioactivity spread; medical and sanitary implications, resulting from an accident and relevant protective measures; engineering support; repair-and-renewal operations). We are currently establishing international crisis Center under the auspices of the Moscow WANO Center, which will consolidate expert and science and technical potential of the countries operating NPPs with VVER type reactors.

Russia supports the IAEA efforts aimed at providing assistance to countries in the establishment and enhancement of national regulatory systems of nuclear and radiation safety of NPP sites. We attach great importance to the activities of the Regulatory Bodies Cooperation Forum and Technical Support Organizations Forum and will continue our participation there.

The publication of the IAEA Report on Fukushima in 2014 will become an important event. We will take part in its development and intend to make a contribution. We expect that the Agency and interested member-states will provide detailed analysis of the causes of the accident and the lessons learnt.

3. Respecting the choice of countries, Russia continues to develop its nuclear power. Currently there are 9 (nine) nuclear units under construction at 5 (five) sites.

Strategic emphasis needs to be made on the development of the new generation technology, which would provide for even more safe, economically efficient and environmentally friendly nuclear power plants. Our international cooperation in nuclear field is based on that philosophy. Russia participates in the development of innovative technology under the International Generation-IV Forum, takes active part in INPRO, a project initiated by Russia, including collaboration on Multifunctional fast neutron research reactor. Together with France we are implementing a bilateral project on fast reactors.

Here today we are in the "heart" of the Asian-Pacific Region. According to the IAEA data, up to 60% of all new nuclear capacities in 20 years to come may be constructed in the countries of this region. Cooperation with these countries is a priority for Russia.

In 2012 we have opened the "Far East Route" - the pilot shipment of uranium product to Japan. It is a proof of the practicability of such shipments to the countries located in the Asian-Pacific Region using the new seaport Vostochniy in the Primorskiy Region.

We have begun construction of the 3 and 4 power units at the site of the Tyanwan NPP in China. The construction of the first unit at the Kudankulam NPP in India has been completed. The work on the feasibility study for the Ninhuan-1 NPP in Vietnam has commenced.

Today Russia has on offer modern technology 3+ NPP projects with increased safety and reliability. The set of our services includes an offer on the maintenance of power units operation, shipment of fuel and NPP life-cycle assurance. We are prepared to assist in the establishment of all required nuclear power infrastructure, including efficient nuclear and radiation safety regulatory system; spent nuclear fuel and radwaste management system; training of qualified experts and development of relevant rules and regulations.

4. Post-Fukushima reality posed new requirements to nuclear power technology.

The accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant has highlighted the necessity to comply to the highest nuclear safety standards. At the same time it is obvious that safety assurance of modern nuclear technology is a task that can be resolved in technologically.

The key condition in resolving this task is the training of professional staff. Only high professionals are capable of assuring nuclear power safety. Following the Fukushima events we have developed a training course on the safety of nuclear reactors, which includes training in the use of codes to substantiate the safety of the Russian nuclear reactors. Russia is among few countries where the NPP control desk operators are required to have higher technical education.

The Global Nuclear Safety Institute has been established on the basis of National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, the leading nuclear university of Russia.

5. Distinguished Co-Chairs,

The entire range of strategic issues related to the enhancement of nuclear safety, global nuclear power development and its contribution to sustainable growth will be discussed at the third (3) International IAEA Conference "Nuclear Power in the 21st Century" in St.Petersburg on 27 - 29 June, 2013.

I am inviting you to take part in this Conference.

It is meant to bring together the leaders of global nuclear sector and regulators, outstanding world scientists and international experts and key players in nuclear power business.

Distinguished Russian nuclear physicist Yuliy Khariton has written that "nuclear power not just defines the technological level of the society, but influences culture, politics and the future. Thus, it determines history". These words are even more true today. Thus, the responsibility imposed on us: for what we do and how we explain it to the public.

Thank you very much for your attention.