

**Statement of Andrej Stritar
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Head of the delegation of the
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at the

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Republic of Slovenia is the smallest nuclear country in the world with only one operating nuclear power plant. Like the people of Japan and the rest of the World also the citizens of Slovenia were shocked by the tremendous natural forces released during the earthquake on 11. March 2011. We were following the suffering of the people of Japan with the great sorrow and concern.

Safety has the highest priority

In the Republic of Slovenia nuclear safety has the highest priority among everybody involved in the peaceful utilization of the nuclear energy. As Slovenia has limited resources, we have to rely heavily on international cooperation in all aspects of nuclear technologies. The operator and the regulator are following the state of the art international developments and in particular to the activities of the IAEA. Our main driving principle is the constant strive for improvements of nuclear safety arrangements. In addition to safe daily operation and regular maintenance of the plant equipment the owners of the plant, electric utilities of Slovenia and neighboring Croatia, are providing to the plant sufficient funds for upgrades of the equipment in order to further increase safety margins and reduce risk from severe accidents. This kind of active investment we see as one of the best guaranties for the continuous safe operation of the plant.

Slovenia intends to continue with the use of nuclear energy. We consider that all the benefits it brings to the people of Slovenia highly outweigh the associated risks.

Stress Tests in Slovenia

Immediately after the Fukushima Daiichi catastrophe in March 2011 Slovenian experts have joined the other European nuclear specialists in efforts to immediately start with the analysis of the nuclear accident and with the search for the lessons to be learned. Our experts took part in the working group that has prepared the EU Stress Test Methodology. After it was approved at the end of May 2011, the Slovenian Nuclear Safety Administration has issued a special order to the Nuclear Power Plant Krško to implement the Stress Test methodology. The operator and later the regulator have subsequently followed the prescribed timeline and have submitted reports in due time.

Slovenian experts have also taken part in the Peer Review process of all European Nuclear Power Plants that took place earlier this year. We were happy to receive from the Peer Review Team an independent review of our nuclear safety arrangements. We will follow the advices obtained.

Already during the weeks and months after the Fukushima accident the operator of our plant purchased number of additional mobile equipment to be used for mitigation of potential severe accident and prepared additional relevant connections to the systems. During and after

the stress tests an ambitious plan for further extensive improvements was prepared and is now under implementation. By the end of 2016 the plant plans to install new equipment for the hydrogen control in the containment, filter venting of the containment, additional bunkerized backup control room, additional safety injection pumps and second ultimate heat sink in a form of big water storage with the additional cooling tower.

Keeping proper balance between design, accident mitigation and operational safety

The time after 11 March 2011 was in the great extend devoted to the improvements in the nuclear power plant design and severe accident mitigation. This is totally understandable, but in Slovenia we are very much aware that considerable importance should be devoted to operational safety. During the operation of our facilities equipment might break and people could make inadvertent mistakes, which could lead to the accident. Therefore the focus of operators and regulators must stay properly balanced between design, accident mitigation and operation.

Continuous improvements

Unfortunately the Fukushima accident has shown that in the past the global nuclear community was not strict enough in making improvements after serious events. We are now learning the same lessons which should have been learned in the past, like, for example, of the importance of sustaining decay heat removal and the means for control of containment integrity. Both the regulator and the operator should be periodically engaged in the international peer review system coordinated through the IAEA. For us it is another proof that in Slovenia we must strictly follow the best international standards and practical solutions for improvements of nuclear safety. Good is simply not enough, we must continuously strive for better and even better. Accidents with such consequences must simply not happen again!

Slovenia will continue to follow and contribute to all international developments in the area of nuclear safety with the special emphasis on activities of the IAEA and in the European Union.

Slovenia is thankful to the government of Japan and the IAEA to organize this conference. We are sure that in the near future we will be able to get a scientific report giving holistic picture of accident sequence in the Fukushima Daiichi with relevant root cause analysis. This will be used in the enhancing safety of operating nuclear facilities and those in design or construction and in optimizing the decommissioning of the present generation of nuclear facilities.

I thank you for your attention.