

Seminar on Strengthening Nuclear Security in Asian Countries Tokyo 8-10 November 2006

Chairman's Conclusions

The Seminar was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Vice-Minister Masakazu Sekiguchi for Foreign Affairs of Japan welcomed the Seminar participants, 105 persons from 19 countries. The objective of the Seminar was to increase awareness and understanding of countries in the Asian region on the need to strengthen nuclear security through the implementation of existing and strengthened international instruments and by enhanced cooperation within the region.

The Seminar recognised that a threat to global security exists through the acquisition of a nuclear explosive device, the material required to build an improvised nuclear explosive device, the acquisition of radioactive material to construct a radiological dispersal device or the sabotage of installations or transports of such material.

In view of the ongoing efforts to promote rapid economic and social development in the Asian region through the expanded use of peaceful nuclear applications, particularly nuclear energy, the Seminar urged that high priority be given to strengthening nuclear security in the region as an integral part of the development process.

The Seminar noted that the international community has responded to the threats through the strengthening of existing and the adoption of new international legal instruments relating to nuclear security and new voluntary measures designed to reinforce the safety and security of radioactive sources. These instruments include:

- The adoption in July 2005 of an amendment to the Convention of Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM)
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
- UNSCR 1373

-UNSCR 1540 (and UNSCR 1673)

-The non-binding IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources

These international instruments underpin the strengthened international framework for assuring nuclear security together with those that already exist in the area of safeguards, i.e. comprehensive safeguards agreements and additional protocols, for establishing a proper system for accounting and control of nuclear material. In addition the Seminar took note of the value of stringent national import and export controls.

While recognising the sovereign rights of States, the Seminar recognised that the adoption of a common baseline represented by the universal adherence to the strengthened international instruments would considerably enhance security within the region. The Seminar therefore encouraged all States to adhere to these strengthened international instruments. It took particular note of the amendment to the CPPNM as major contribution to enhanced nuclear security and encouraged parties to the Convention to work actively for the early entry into force of that amendment. The Seminar similarly noted the important role of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and again encouraged States to work for its early entry into force.

Speakers referred to the importance of adopting a holistic approach which brought together and built on the synergies between security, safety and safeguards. They underlined the need for the development of a sustainable security culture to underpin effective security implementation.

The Seminar also took note of a number of international initiatives designed to promote nuclear security. In doing so, the Seminar expressed the view that such initiatives and IAEA nuclear security activities should be mutually reinforcing and coordinated:

-The G8 Global Partnership Programme

-The EU strategy against the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

-The US Global Threat Initiative

-The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism

The Seminar noted the unique role of the IAEA's Illicit Trafficking Database as a mechanism for exchanging information amongst States on illicit trafficking and in providing indicators of vulnerabilities in control and other security measures and indicators of vulnerabilities at borders.

The responsibility for nuclear security rests entirely with each individual State. However, the Seminar also recognized that the clear international dimension of the risk from terrorist acts as demonstrated by various events and underlined the need for States to cooperate to prevent such acts. The Seminar welcomed assistance already provided by the IAEA through the Nuclear Security Plan 2006-2009, to States in the region to meet their obligations under the new international security instruments while noting that such assistance is at the request of the receiving States. The Seminar called on the IAEA to enhance its cooperation with States in the region to ensure that acceptable levels of security are applied to all nuclear and other radioactive material under national jurisdictions and according to effective national systems and functions. In this regard, the Seminar noted that the plan is funded by voluntary contributions. It expressed its appreciation to the donors to the Nuclear Security Fund and encouraged them to continue to ensure that the fund has sufficient resources to meet the requests for assistance.

The Seminar provided a valuable forum to share the experience of building and implementing regulatory, technical and administrative infrastructures for strengthening nuclear security in the States of the region as well as their experience of mutual consultations and cooperation.

The Seminar recommended that a further meeting be convened in two years time to review its impact in improving nuclear security in the region.