

IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

MEETING REPORT

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Prepared by: Scientific Secretary
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**SIXTH MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IDENTIFIED UNDER THE
CONVENTION ON EARLY NOTIFICATION OF A
NUCLEAR ACCIDENT AND THE CONVENTION ON
ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT
OR RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY**

REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING

Summary

The Sixth Meeting of Competent Authorities was convened by the IAEA Secretariat at IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, Austria from 17 to 20 April 2012. The Meeting was divided into plenary sessions, work sessions and one special session. HE Mr I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Ambassador and Resident Representative of Indonesia chaired the plenary sessions. Mr J. F. Lafortune, President of the International Safety Research of Canada facilitated the work sessions. A total of 131 participants from 67 States and five international intergovernmental organizations attended the Meeting.

The Meeting reviewed the conclusions and outcomes from the Fifth Meeting, took note and welcomed the reports on the Secretariat's and the NCACG's activities since the 5th Meetings and discussed latest emergency preparedness and response as well as safety and security arrangements (international, national).

The NCACG Methods of Work, reports from NCACG regional meetings and NCACG task list were presented and debated. The possibility of merging the Western and Eastern Europe regions into single European region was considered and decision postponed until the 7th CA Meeting. The Meeting endorsed the selected NCACG members and their alternates while Mr Geza Macsuga remains the NCACG Chairperson.

The response to the accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPPs in Japan, IAEA Secretariat, relevant international organizations and Member States was presented and lessons identified summarized.

Two non-papers were circulated: the representatives of the Competent Authority of Japan distributed proposals for enhancing the implementation of the Early Notification Convention and the Russian Federation representatives circulated proposals for strengthening the implementation of the Early Notification and Assistance Conventions (Attachment I contains both non-papers).

Finally, the priorities for the next two years in emergency preparedness and response were presented and discussed.

The Meeting completed all agenda items and in total, 21 Meeting conclusions were endorsed.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. OPENING OF THE MEETING.....	3
3. REPORTS TO THE MEETING	4
4. IAEA PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS	6
5. SAFETY AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.....	7
6. NCACG MATTERS	8
7. ACCIDENT AT FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NPPS	9
8. THE WAY FORWARD – PERIOD 2012-2014	10
9. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SAFETY AND SECURITY	10
10. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING.....	11
11. CLOSING OF THE MEETING.....	11
APPENDIX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	12
APPENDIX II: MEETING AGENDA.....	34
Tuesday, 17 April 2012.....	34
Wednesday, 18 April 2012	35
Thursday, 19 April 2012	36
Friday, 20 April 2012.....	37
APPENDIX III: MEETING’S CONCLUSIONS.....	39
ATTACHMENT I: NON-PAPERS.....	42

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Sixth Meeting of representatives of competent authorities identified in accordance with the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (Early Notification Convention) and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (Assistance Convention) took place in Vienna from 17 to 20 April 2012 at the invitation of the International Atomic Energy Agency.
2. One hundred and twenty two representatives of competent authorities from 67 States and nine representatives from 5 international intergovernmental organizations attended the Sixth Meeting.
3. The list of participants is attached as Appendix I.
4. The following documents were prepared and made available for the Meeting¹.

Meeting Documents

CAM/DOC/2012/01	Report on CA Meeting's Conclusions 2009
CAM/DOC/2012/02	Report on NCACG's Activities
CAM/DOC/2012/03	Report on Relevant IEC's Activities
CAM/DOC/2012/04	IEC Priorities in 2012-2014
CAM/DOC/2012/05	NCACG's Task List 2012-2014 – Proposal
CAM/DOC/2012/06	USIE – Status Report
CAM/DOC/2012/07	RANET – Status Report
CAM/DOC/2012/08	Web-ECURIE Status Report
CAM/DOC/2012/09	Action Plan Final Report
CAM/DOC/2012/10	IAEA Response to the Accident at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPP
CAM/DOC/2012/11	NCACG Methods of Work
CAM/DOC/2012/12	NCACG Work Plan 2009-2011

Plenary Session

2. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. Mr Denis Flory, Deputy Director General of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security addressed the Meeting and expressed the Agency's appreciation for the wide range of co-operation shown by Member States in providing experts and resources for past emergency responses. He reminded participants that the year 2011 was marked with the accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPPs of Tokyo Electric Power Co. and response efforts at national and international level. The Ministerial Conference in June 2011 resulted in the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety that was prepared together with Member States and approved by IAEA's Board of Governors and endorsed by the IAEA General Conference in September 2011. Our common efforts should be now directed to the implementation of

¹ Documents are available on the Action Plan homepage <http://www-ns.iaea.org/tech-areas/emergency/caap/login.asp>

this action plan. He also expressed the Agency's gratitude to Morocco for hosting the forthcoming ConvEx-3 exercise and wished fruitful discussions and successful week.

6. Mr Geza Macsuga, NCACG Chairperson, addressed the Meeting emphasizing that the past three years were very important period for the NCACG and stressing the impact of the Fukushima Daiichi Accident on the tasks of the NCACG. In particular, the importance of the communication in such situations was stressed. He welcomed the successful cooperation with the IAEA especially in the dissemination of official information.

7. Ms Elena Buglova, Head, Incident and Emergency Centre (IEC) of the IAEA warmly welcomed the participants and introduced HE Mr I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Ambassador, Indonesia, as the Chairperson and Mr J. F. Lafortune, President, International Safety Research, Canada as a Facilitator of the Sixth Meeting. HE Mr Puja, Chairperson, addressed the Meeting and expressed his appreciation for being given the opportunity to chair such important Meeting. He concluded with his expectation that the overall discussion during the Meeting will contribute in strengthening the response preparedness worldwide.

8. Mr Rafael Martincic, Scientific Secretary of the Meeting, presented the Meeting's objectives and expectations and explained the Meeting's logistics. He emphasized that this Meeting is a technical meeting of all competent authorities (CA) identified according to the Early Notification and Assistance Conventions by States or relevant international organizations. He encouraged all participants to take part in the discussions and to make proposals for the Meeting's conclusions or their implementation.

9. The Meeting adopted the provisional agenda without changes as contained in Appendix II.

10. On the request of the representative of the CA of Russian Federation, the Plenary was informed that the CA of Russian Federation were to host a separate meeting to be open for all interested CAs, on the Russian Federation's proposed amendments to the Early Notification Convention. The meeting was to take place on Wednesday 18th April at 13.00hrs in Conference Room M4 outside the framework of the CA Meeting.

3. REPORTS TO THE MEETING

11. Mr Martincic presented the summary of the Secretariat's response to the conclusions (in total, ten) endorsed at the Fifth CA Meeting held in 2009 (CAM/DOC/2012/01). The Secretariat implemented four conclusions (first, seventh, eighth and ninth) and two conclusions (second and fifth) did not require any specific action. He also reminded that details in the implementation progress for four conclusions (third, fourth, sixth and tenth) would be given under separate Meeting Agenda items (2, 3 and 5).

12. Mr Macsuga presented the Report on the National Competent Authorities' Coordinating Group (NCACG) activities covering the period 2009-2012 (CAM/DOC/2012/12). He summarized the implementation progress of tasks listed in the NCACG Work Plan² (CAM/DOC/2012/12) and presented other activities undertaken by the NCACG. The conclusions from the 2011 NCACG Meeting hosted by the Western Europe Region were shared and difficulties in maintaining communication were identified. Finally, he proposed few topics for discussions at the regional meetings.

13. Ms Buglova presented relevant IEC's activities in the period 2009-2011 (CAM/DOC/2012/03). In particular, she stressed the IEC's activities aimed at strengthening the global emergency preparedness and response arrangements and capabilities through promoting compliance with the safety standards using the Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) service; developing and refining safety standards and guidelines; implementing capacity building in Member States; and strengthening in-house as well as inter-agency emergency preparedness and response. However,

² Endorsed by the NCACG Members with effective date November, 16th, 2009

major efforts in 2011 were focused on the response to the accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPPs. Since 2009, in addition to the Fukushima Daiichi accident, the IEC took action in 55 cases of total of 464 events involving or suspected to involve ionizing radiation for which the IEC was being informed or became aware of.

14. Mr Vincent McClelland, USA Department of Energy, Chair of the Work Group on Long term Sustainability of Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme presented an overview of the International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies (CAM/DOC/2012/09), its final report³ and the implementation progress made. In particular, he summarized achievements accomplished by all three Action Plan work groups and briefed on the approach and strategy to be implemented for ensuring sustained, cost effective, state-of-the-art emergency preparedness and response system. Ensuring that all States and relevant international organizations implement the Action Plan recommendations will be the main challenge.

15. Ms Buglova and Mr Florian Baci, NS-IEC, presented the IAEA response to the accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPPs (CAM/DOC/2012/10). They described the IAEA activities since first information on the earthquake reached the IEC (within one hour after the earthquake) until the end of 2011 as well as lessons identified in the response. The Incident and Emergency System (IES) proved to be effective through the professionalism and dedication of the IAEA staff members. However, issues have been identified such as a need for more trained staff members to support IEC operations during extended response periods (weeks and longer) and need for improved data management.

16. Mr Lyndon Bevington, Nuclear Safety Action Team, IAEA, described the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and the key achievements in all areas. He stressed the increased trend noticed in demands for the IAEA peer reviews. He highlighted that the success of the Action Plan depends on its implementation not only by the IAEA Secretariat but also by Member States and other stakeholders and stressed the importance of a broad dissemination of the Action Plan outcomes.

17. In the discussion that followed the CA representatives of Japan, Germany, Norway, USA, Ireland, Netherland, Finland, Russian Federation and France raised questions and comments covering the following topics: IAEA activities for implementation of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and in particular on actions to meet new, expanded IAEA response role assigned by the Action Plan; the basis and mechanisms for assistance providing to Japan; establishment of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Expert Group; issues in exchanging of monitoring data in case of emergency (in particular, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization – CTBTO monitoring data) among competent authorities; possible use of World Association of Nuclear Operators – WANO capabilities for assistance; and use of the Unified System for Information Exchange in Incidents and Emergencies (USIE) for sharing important information during an emergency.

18. Representative of the competent authority of Japan expressed its Government's gratitude for the international solidarity and support provided during the accident at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPPs. Japanese determination towards implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety including the EPR area was stressed mentioning the contribution that Japan made to the IAEA to support the Action Plan implementation.

19. The Meeting noted all six reports and welcomed the work done.

³ Submitted in January 2010 to the Deputy Director General, Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, IAEA

Working Sessions

4. IAEA PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

20. Mr Günther Winkler, IEC, briefed the Meeting on the Incident and Emergency Communication Manual (IEComm) intended to substitute the Early Notification and Assistance Technical Operations Manual (ENATOM). He highlighted the main improvements and changes made: the new extended role of the IAEA in exchanging information as foreseen by the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety; the coordination of inter-agency response; guidelines on timing for notification and follow up information; and revised ConvEx exercise regime. It is expected that the pre-publication version will be available in few weeks after the Meeting and the planned effective date to be June, 1st, 2012. The Meeting took note and acknowledged the work done.

21. Mr Mats Eklund, IEC, presented the USIE implementation milestones, the final solution and its new features emphasizing the current usage of this system and the recent and upcoming developments (CAM/DOC/2012/06). He also presented the progress made in the development of the Informational Radiological Information Exchange standards (IRIX). Since January 2012, the IRIX format version 1 "Release Candidate" was made available to the Contact Points and the final version is expected to be issued in near future. The Meeting expressed its appreciation on the work done and encouraged registration with USIE.

22. Mr Baciu presented the revised ConvEx exercise regime described in the IEComm in more details stressing its benefits. He also briefed the Meeting on the evaluations of past exercises and made proposals for improving the States' performance and participation in these exercises. Finally, he raised issues regarding the adequacy of the exercise regime, the type and frequencies of the exercises and training. The Meeting took note and supported the suggested regime, types and frequencies of exercises. However, the Meeting requested the IEC to set the precise dates for the ConvEx-2 exercises in the Annual Exercise Calendar, to issue this calendar at the end of the current year for the following year and to regularly disseminate the exercise evaluation among Member States and relevant international organizations. The Meeting encouraged all States and relevant international organizations to increase their participation in the ConvEx exercises.

23. Mr Martincic briefed the Meeting regarding the ConvEx-3(2013) exercise (to be hosted by Morocco). Scenario will be based on a severe radiological emergency triggered by criminal act. The exercise is planned for autumn 2013. He also presented envisaged objectives and scope of the exercise as well as the expected participation. The Meeting took note and encouraged development of scenario that will ensure as broad participation as possible.

24. Mr Rodrigo Salinas, IEC, presented the findings from the Emergency Preparedness Review (EPREV) Missions in the period 2004 – 2011. In particular, he briefed the Meeting on the recommendations and suggestions given as well as the good practices identified per module stressing the areas that mostly require improvements. He concluded highlighting that these findings provide valuable information about the current status and improvements made in the EPR systems in the Member States. EPREV reports dissemination (by the consent of the country) is to be understood as a step forward in the exchange of experiences. He also pointed out substantial increase in number of the EPREV missions in last two years (2010-2011).

25. Ms Buglova described the needs and objectives for the revision of the GS-R-2 Requirements. She explained current approach to the revision, activities undertaken so far and required steps needed to finalize and publish the requirements. It was noted that no major gaps have been identified so far in the current requirements but based on lessons identified in response to the accident in 2011 perhaps some additional clarification may be needed. The Meeting took note and encouraged all States and relevant international organizations to actively participate in the revision process.

26. Mr Thomas J. McKenna, IEC, described new tools in the EPR area under development. In particular, he provided the Meeting with an overview of a new communication and decision-making tool that is to be used in case of a severe nuclear power plant or spent fuel emergency. He stressed that

this document should be particularly useful for communicating the risk to the public. It is expected to be published by the end of 2012.

27. Mr Patrick Kenny, NS-IEC, briefed the Meeting on the Response and Assistance Network (RANET) as an operational tool of the Assistance Convention (CAM/DOC/2012/07). He stressed that the RANET was used in every assistance mission since the mid-2009 and it was proven as an effective assistance mechanism. He also explained conclusions from the consultancy meeting on the extension of RANET capabilities held in January 2012. Currently, 19 Member States have registered their national assistance capabilities (four new MS since the Fifth CA Meeting). The Meeting took note on the current RANET status and the progress made but many concerns were raised and discussed. Mainly, these concerns refer to the compatibility requirements for the response capabilities as well as legal, financial and liability issues in implementation of the Assistance Convention. The Meeting concluded recommendations for overcoming these issues and recognised the importance of establishing and maintaining optimized national exercise programmes to support implementation of the Assistance Convention.

28. Mr Baciú presented an overview of the cases of assistance provided in the period 2009 – 2012 experience gained and the lessons identified.

29. During the discussions, the representative of the competent authority of Japan stressed the importance of timely sharing of information during an emergency among all States (not only among Parties to Early Notification Convention and not only among Member States). The representatives of Slovenia, Austria, Ireland, Norway, Germany, USA and FAO and WHO participated in the discussions raising different issues and comments regarding exercise regime, RANET, terminology used, USIE, and GS-R-2 revision. The Meeting took note of presented EPR arrangements as well as of raised issues and comments.

5. SAFETY AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN MEMBER STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

30. Mr Gerhard de Vries, European Commission – Joint Research Centre, briefed the Meeting on the current status of the Web-ECURIE – European notification system (CAM/DOC/2012/08). He presented its characteristics and its interface with the USIE. The development of the system is expected to be completed by May 2012 and presented at the 2012 ECURIE CA Meeting. It is expected to be released in the third quarter of 2012 for official operation.

31. Mr Johann-Klaus Hohenberg, European Commission, presented the EU RANET Support Project intended to assist the EU Member States to identify their assistance capabilities and to encourage and support them to register capabilities in the IAEA RANET. Based on the project's results, majority of the EU Member States recognised RANET as useful mechanism for timely and effective international assistance⁴. He also emphasized the impediments to registration in RANET such as constraints in resources, having other priorities, concerns over liability, insurance, financing and logistics⁵.

32. Mr Charles Massey, US DoE, presented the primary programmes of the Second Line of Defence Office under the National Nuclear Security Administration, US DoE and the achievements made within these programmes. Namely, the capabilities to deter, detect and interdict illicit trafficking of nuclear and/or radioactive material at international border crossings were strengthened in almost 60 partner countries worldwide under these programmes.

⁴ Some EU Member States were of an opinion that bilateral or regional arrangements on assistance may be more effective.

⁵The report can be ordered from the EC: Vesa.Tanner@ec.europa.eu

33. Mr Benjamin Sher, US DoE, presented a short demo of a cost effective worldwide GIS programme named International Radiological Mapping Application (IRMA) demonstrating its features and its potential use⁶ for competent authorities.

34. Mr Finn Ugletveit, Norway, described the need for establishing minimum compatibility requirements for response capabilities (including assistance capabilities). The purpose of these requirements is to achieve necessary compatibility between the capabilities of the assisting and assisted States. Setting and implementing these requirements was seen as a stimulus for registering States' capabilities in RANET. He requested the IAEA Secretariat and the Member States to contribute in the development of the minimum compatibility requirements offering Norway's assistance and funds for support of their development and implementation. The Meeting supported the idea.

35. Mr Valery Yakimovets, ROSATOM, gave an overview of the WANO Regional Crisis Centre in Moscow, its objectives, tasks and operations arrangements, and organizational aspects of the emergency response.

36. Mr Ping Xu, China, presented recent Chinese arrangements for enhancing their national emergency preparedness and response in areas legislative framework, technical support, rescue forces and emergency management.

37. Mr Christian Vandecasteele, Belgium, suggested a tool for easier operationalization of the emergency planning zones (EPZ) taking into account communication among all stakeholders including population in areas where protective actions are planned. He emphasized that using proposed approach will ensure avoiding over-conservatism (justification/optimisation) at each step of setting EPZ.

38. Representatives of France, Ireland, Romania, Iran and USA participated in the discussion that followed raising financial, legal and liability issues regarding the implementation of the Assistance Convention or commenting on the EU RANET project. The representative of the EC suggested to the Meeting consideration on the possibility of linking the RANET with the existing EU civil protection system. The Meeting took note of presentations as well as of raised issues and comments.

6. NCACG MATTERS

39. Mr Macsuga presented the NCACG Methods of work⁷ (CAM/DOC/2012/11) emphasizing the accountability and role of the NCACG, composition and period of service, nomination and selection of the NCACG Chairperson, its members and their alternates, NCACG functions, meetings and working/administrative procedures. He underlined the need for having the possibility for replacing regional representatives also in between the CA Meetings.

40. Mr Macsuga presented the proposal of the NCACG Task List (CAM/DOC/2012/05) for the period 2012-2014. CA representatives of UK and USA expressed their concern that the NCACG is taking IAEA Secretariat's responsibilities instead of supporting the Secretariat. Although CA representatives of Norway supported the Task List, the Meeting decided that the NCACG should reconsider its Task List taking into account the expressed concerns.

41. Regional CA representatives (NCACG members) briefed the Meeting on the six regional meetings conveyed on Wednesday, 18th of April. At these meetings regional progress, activities and related issues were discussed. In addition, proposals for new NCACG members and their alternates were agreed upon. Ms Loreto Mirella Villanueva Zamora from Chile reported on behalf of the Latin America region; Mrs Ann Heinrich from USA reported on behalf of the North America and Mexico region (she requested the Meeting to allow to send the designated representatives' names after the

⁶ For all interested representatives a detailed demonstration was available on Thursday, 19th April.

⁷ Accepted by the NCACG members on March, 7th, 2012 with the effective date March, 15th, 2012 and covering the next two year period.

Meeting); Mr Hiroyuki Kobayashi from Japan reported on behalf of the Asia Pacific region; Mrs Itimad Soufi from Morocco reported on behalf of Africa Region; Mrs Delphine Xicluna from France reported on behalf of Western Europe Region, and Mr Marjan Tkavc from Slovenia reported on behalf of the Eastern Europe region informing the Meeting that there were no candidates for the NCACG in this region. He proposed to consider merging Western and Eastern Europe regions into one European Region. After considering the proposal⁸ the Meeting agreed that for the next two year period representative of Western Europe will represent also Eastern European and that the decision on merging of both regions is postponed until 7th CA Meeting.

42. The Meeting endorsed all NCACG members and their alternates and expressed gratitude to the outgoing regional representatives⁹.

43. No proposal for the NCACG Chairperson was received. Thereafter, based on the NCACG Methods of Work the current Chairperson, i.e. Mr Macsuga, remains active for the next two year term.

7. ACCIDENT AT FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI NPPs

44. Mr Masaomi Koyama, Japan, gave an overview of the accident at the TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi NPPs and summarized major lessons learned in areas of international communications and international support and assistance. Although, the exchange of information with the international community was assessed as being prompt and proper, the further improvements in the international notification arrangements were suggested. The Meeting took note of the presentation and acknowledged the Japanese efforts in providing timely information.

45. Mr Kobayashi, Japan, explained Japanese proposals for enhancing implementation of the Early Notification Convention that were based on the experience gained in response to the Fukushima accident. The proposals relate to the severity of events that need to be notified, nature of notification and actions to be taken for enhancing the international notification system. The Meeting discussed these proposals¹⁰ and recognised the importance of enhancing the implementation of the notification under the Early Notification Convention (see Meeting Conclusions). In addition, the Meeting took note on the need for clarification of the terms 'report' and 'reporting' to avoid possible confusion with specific legal obligations in some English speaking States.

46. Mr Martincic, IACRNE Secretary, summarized the lessons identified in the inter-agency response to the Fukushima accident. The Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE) and its Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations (JPLAN) proved to be effective and comprehensive inter-agency mechanism while bilateral protocols on cooperation established so far demonstrated their usefulness. However, areas needing improvement were also identified.

47. Mr McClelland, USA, presented US DoE activated assets and monitoring activities (aerial survey measurements, deposition measurements) in Japan. He also summarized best practices and lessons identified in the response.

48. Mr Ping Xu, China, informed the Meeting on the Chinese response activities and related safety improvements envisaged. EPR priorities for 2012-2014 aimed at improving the national nuclear emergency response capabilities were also presented.

⁸ The CA representatives of Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Hungary, Slovenia, UK and USA took part in the discussion.

⁹ Selected NCACG members and their alternates are listed under Meeting Conclusion No. 21.

¹⁰ Korea, Hungary, Norway, Romania, Pakistan, Singapore, Sweden, Tunisia, UK and USA participated in the discussion.

49. Ms Buglova presented identified lessons from the IAEA Secretariat perspective summarizing them at three levels: international, national and the Secretariat level. She pointed out that all lessons are valuable input for enhancing and harmonizing the EPR framework.

50. Mr Macsuga briefed the Meeting on the results of the survey (based on questionnaire) NCACG performed among competent authorities to evaluate the information flow during the Fukushima accident. About 40 CAs replied on the questionnaire assessing the technical content, quality, actuality of the information and the way and form of communication, activities for seeking and providing information. The Meeting took note on the results presented but discussed¹¹ their reliability for possible inclusion in the Meeting's conclusions. It was suggested to the IEC to act more active role in dissemination of different materials among all States using the USIE, as well as for the States to raise their diligence in using the USIE tool.

51. In the discussions that followed the presentations, the representatives of competent authorities of Pakistan, Canada, Norway and France raised questions and comments regarding the Japanese response and the implementation of iodine prophylaxes, US activities in Japan and the availability of the shown US capabilities to RANET as well as on the possible reflection of the assistance compatibility requirements in the revised GS-R-2. The Meeting took note of the lessons identified in the response to the Fukushima accident as well as of raised issues and comments.

8. THE WAY FORWARD – PERIOD 2012-2014

52. Ms Buglova presented the global priorities in the EPR area as seen from the IAEA Secretariat prospective as well as the priorities in the IEC's programme for the period 2012-2014. All the priorities identified for this period refer to reviewing and assessing national EPR systems, strengthening the international EPR framework including the international assistance mechanisms, inter-agency coordination mechanisms and IAEA Incident and Emergency System, strengthening the IAEA Safety Standards, guides and tools, fostering their implementation, strengthening the appraisal services, capacity building and improvements in communication and dissemination of information. The Meeting took note on the presented priorities and supported the work to be done and discussed the possibilities for facilitating a broader participation at the CA Meetings. The view expressed by the UK representative to wait for publishing the revised EPR requirements to request EPREV mission was not supported as it had been previously noted that no major gaps were identified so far in the current requirements.

53. Mr Vandecasteele informed the Meeting on the actions taken by Belgium as a response to the Fukushima accident. He proposed the Meeting to recommend a solution on the management of contaminated material, cargo, shipments and other non-food items as well as on criteria what would be considered as acceptable safe contamination levels. The Meeting discussed¹² this issue and supported the proposal (see Meeting conclusions).

Plenary Session

9. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SAFETY AND SECURITY

54. Mr Wolfram Tonhauser, Section Head, OLA-IAEA, presented the current nuclear liability regime and the international nuclear liability instruments applicable for both nuclear power and non-nuclear power countries ensuring its basis. The efforts towards establishing a global nuclear liability regime were highlighted as being initiated from the experience gained from the Fukushima accident.

¹¹ The representatives of Iran, USA, Romania, Slovenia, France and the European Commission participated in the discussion.

¹² The representatives of Belgium, USA, Canada, France and Korea participated in the discussion.

55. Mr Peter Hughes, Section Head, NSNI, presented the current issues, trends and challenges in nuclear installation safety covering long-term operation and ageing management, countries embarking on nuclear power, future reactor designs and Fukushima activities.

56. Mr Magnus Vesterlind, NSRW, briefed the Meeting on the current activities in radiation, transport and waste safety in particular on the revised international BSS, activities in transport safety and models and data for radiological impact assessment (MODARIA).

57. Mr Khammar Mrabit, Director, Office of Nuclear Security, briefed the Meeting on the nuclear security activities, issues and challenges. He recognised the IAEA with its 153 MSs as a good platform for international security cooperation promoting a global response to the global threat.

10. CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING

58. The Meeting's conclusions¹³ were presented. Ms Buglova explained their development. The Meeting reviewed each proposed conclusion and endorsed all but one with some minor changes.

59. In the discussion on the NCACG Task List the Meeting supported the proposal of the NCACG to the IAEA Secretariat to host a collaborative space on the IAEA's server for the needs of the NCACG and to develop and make available to States exercise manuals with different scenarios that can be used in preparing national exercises. The Meeting tasked the NCACG to assist the IEC in promoting the participation in ConvEx exercises; promoting active participation in the development of minimum compatibility requirements; in establishing and maintaining a list of priorities and tasks to assist the IEC in the implementation of the Meeting's conclusions and to prepare its Work Plan based on the Meeting conclusions and in consultation with the CAs and the IEC.

60. All endorsed Meeting conclusions are recorded in Appendix III.

11. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

61. Mr Flory presented his observations stating that now the IAEA Secretariat's job is to implement the recommendations given by the Meeting to strengthen global emergency preparedness and response arrangements. He expressed his gratitude to the Meeting Chairperson and the Meeting Facilitator for the work done and thanked all participants for a very constructive and productive discussions.

62. HE Mr I Puja thanked all the participants for their fruitful participation in the Meeting. He also expressed his gratitude to all the presenters, the Meeting Facilitator, Scientific Secretary and the IEC and its Head for their contribution and for the work done that ensured having well prepared and productive Meeting. He concluded that now it is responsibility of all the States to continue with their efforts in implementation of the Meeting's recommendations so to ensure strengthened EPR arrangements worldwide.

63. HE Mr Puja closed the Meeting on Friday, 20 April 2012 at 13:00hrs.

¹³ The Meeting's participants were provided with the draft conclusions in advance through the Action Plan homepage <http://www-ns.iaea.org/tech-areas/emergency/caap/login.asp> and through the USIE protected web site <http://www-emergency.iaea.org/documents.asp>

APPENDIX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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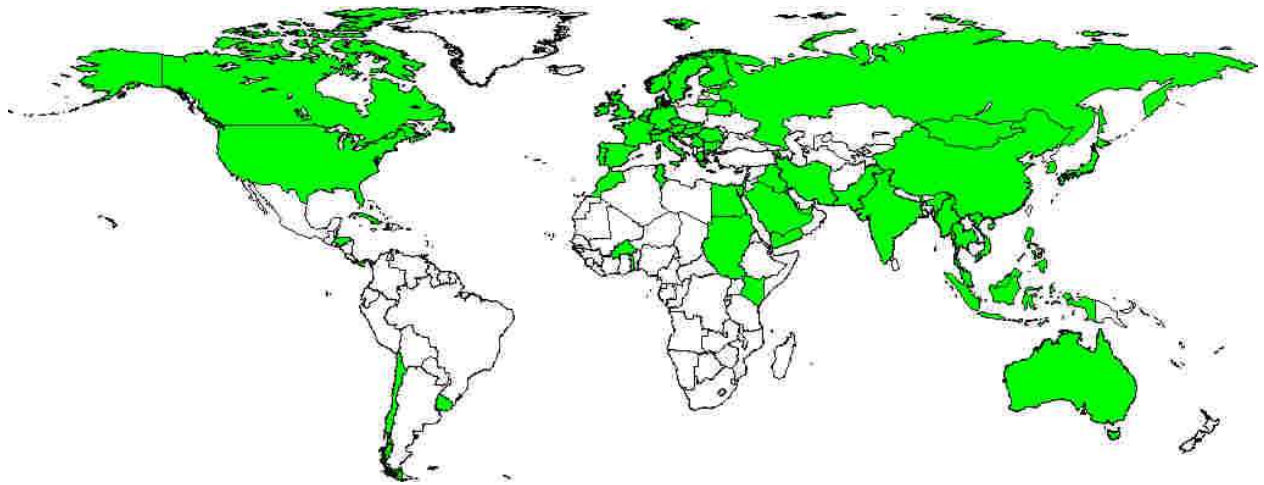
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States attending the 6th CA Meeting



APPENDIX II: MEETING AGENDA

Plenary Session

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Opening of the Meeting |
| 2 | Reports to the Meeting |

Work Sessions

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 | IAEA Preparedness and Response Arrangements |
| 4 | Safety and Security Arrangements in MSs and International Organizations |
| 5 | NCACG Matters |
| 6 | Accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPP |
| 7 | The Way Forward – Period 2012-2014 |

Plenary Session

- | | |
|----|--|
| 8 | Recent Developments in Safety and Security |
| 9 | Conclusions of the Meeting |
| 10 | Closing of the Meeting |

Tuesday, 17 April 2012

2nd Regular RANET Meeting

Boardroom A

10:00

- Open issues and challenges, sharing experience, proposals for work plan 2012-14
Meeting Chair: Mr P. Kenny

Plenary Session

Meeting Chairperson

14:00

1

Opening of the Meeting

- Welcome Address/Opening Remarks
Mr D. Flory, DDG-NS, Mr G. Macsuga, NCACG Chairperson, Ms E. Buglova, Head IEC
- Introduction of Meeting Chairperson and Meeting Facilitator
Ms E. Buglova
- Objectives of the Meeting
Mr R. Martincic, Scientific Secretary
- Orientation/Meeting Logistics
Mr R. Martincic
- Adoption of Agenda

914:30

2

Reports to the Meeting

- Report on CA Meeting's Conclusions 2009 – paper CAM/DOC/2012/01
Mr R. Martincic
- Report on NCACG's Activities – paper CAM/DOC/2012/02
Mr G. Macsuga

FINAL

- Report on Relevant IEC's Activities – paper CAM/DOC/2012/03
Ms E. Buglova
- Discussion and feedback

15:30 *Coffee Break*

16:00 **2a** **Reports to the Meeting – continuation**

- Action Plan Final Report and Implementation Status
Mr V. McClelland, Chair of the Work Group on Long Term Sustainability of Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme
- Report on the IAEA Response to the Accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPP
Ms E. Buglova, Mr F. Baci, IEC
- Progress in the Implementation of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety
Mr L. Bevington, Nuclear Safety Action Team
- Discussion and feedback

17:45 *Daily Closing*

18:00 *Reception, VIC Restaurant*

Wednesday, 18 April 2012

Working Session

Meeting Facilitator

09:00 **3** **IAEA Preparedness and Response Arrangements**

- Incident and Emergency Communication Manual – IEComm
Mr G. Winkler, IEC
- USIE and IRIX
Mr M. Eklund, IEC
- ConvEx Exercises Regime
Mr F. Baci, IEC
- ConvEx-3 (2013) Exercise
Mr R. Martincic, IEC
- Findings of EPREV Missions
Mr R. Salinas, IEC
- Revision of GS-R-2
Ms E. Buglova, IEC
- New Tools in EPR
Mr T. Mc Kenna, IEC
- Discussion and feedback

11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:30 **3a** **IAEA Preparedness and Response Arrangements – continuation**

- Response and Assistance Network
Mr P. Kenny, IEC
- Cases of Assistance and Lessons Learned
Mr F. Baci, IEC
- Discussion and feedback

12:30 *Lunch*

14:00 **4** **Safety and Security Arrangements in Member States and International Organizations**

- Web-ECURIE
Mr G. de Vries, European Commission
- EU RANET Support Project
Mr H. Hohenberg, European Commission
- Second Line of Defense/Megaport Initiative
Mr C. Massey, US DOE
- Cost Effective Worldwide GIS Program – Demo
Mr B. Sher, US DOE
- Minimum Compatibility Requirements for International Assistance
Mr F. Ugletveit, CA Norway
- WANO Regional Crisis Centre in Moscow
Mr V. Yakimovets, Rosatom
- EPR Arrangements in China
Representative of CA China
- Belgium Operationalization of EPZ
Representative of CA Belgium
- Discussion and feedback

16:00 *Daily Closing*

Special Sessions

Moderators: NCACG members

16:00 **Regional CA Meetings (in parallel)**

- Regional Progress reports
- New NCACG Chairperson, members and alternates
- National issues/activities

Thursday, 19 April 2012

Working Session

Meeting Facilitator

09:00 **5** **NCACG Matters**

- NCACG Methods of Work
Mr G. Macsuga
- Reports from Regional Meetings
NCACG members
- NCACG Task List – Proposal
Mr G. Macsuga
- Discussion and endorsement
- Proposals for new NCACG
Mr G. Macsuga
- Discussion and endorsement

10:30 *Coffee Break*

FINAL

11:00 6 Accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPP

- Overview of Response and Key Lessons Learned
Mr M. Koyama, NISA, Japan
- Discussion and feedback

12:30 Lunch

14:00 6a Accident at Fukushima Daiichi NPP – continuation

- Lessons in Inter-Agency Response
Mr R. Martincic, IACRNE Secretary
- US Lessons
V. McClelland, CA USA
- Lessons Learned in China
Representative of CA China
- EPR Priorities in China
Representative of CA China
- IAEA Lessons
Ms E. Buglova
- Overview of Lessons in MSs
Mr G. Macsuga, NCACG
- Discussion and feedback

15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 7 The Way Forward – Period 2012-2014

- Priorities in EPR
Ms E. Buglova
- Discussion and feedback

17:00 Daily Closing

Friday, 20 April 2012

Plenary Session

Meeting Chairperson

09:00 8 Recent Developments in Safety and Security

- International Law on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage
Mr W. Tonhauser, OLA
- Nuclear Installation Safety – Current Status and Prospects
Mr P. Hughes, NSNI
- Current Activities in Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety
M. Vesterlind, NSRW
- Nuclear Security – Issues and Challenges
Mr. K. Mrabit, Director NSNS

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 9 Conclusions of the Meeting

- Proposed Conclusions
Ms E. Buglova
- Discussion, feedback and endorsement of Meeting conclusions

12:00 10 Closing of the Meeting

Meeting Chairperson and Mr D. Flory

12:30 End of the Meeting

APPENDIX III: MEETING'S CONCLUSIONS

GENERAL

Conclusion

CAM-2012/01

The Meeting encouraged all States as well as all relevant international organizations to attend meetings of the Competent Authorities identified under the Early Notification and the Assistance Conventions. The Meeting urges the IAEA Secretariat to find mechanisms to facilitate a broader participation by all competent authorities.

The Meeting recommended that the IAEA Secretariat, in cooperation with the State Parties, explore proposals on mechanisms to improve and strengthen the Early Notification and Assistance Conventions.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/02

The Meeting recommended that the IAEA Secretariat expedite the implementation of the strategy contained in the final report of the International Action Plan for Strengthening the International Preparedness and Response System for Nuclear and Radiological Emergencies (2004 – 2009) and as identified in the Nuclear Safety Action Plan and endorsed by the GC 2011.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/03

The Meeting acknowledged the importance of developing minimum compatibility requirements for preparedness and response capabilities as a basis for effective emergency preparedness and response and recommended that the IEC take action, in cooperation with States and relevant international organizations, to develop such requirements.

EXERCISES

Conclusion

CAM-2012/04

The Meeting encouraged all States and relevant international organizations to increase their participation in the ConvEx exercises.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/05

Meeting requested the Secretariat (IEC) to set the precise dates for the ConvEx-2 exercises in the Annual Exercise Calendar, to issue this calendar at the end of the current year for the following year to facilitate national exercise planning.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/06

The Meeting recommended to the IAEA Secretariat (IEC) that instructions on the expected State's actions in the ConvEx-1 and ConvEx-2 exercises, which are sent by fax to the States, be consistent with instructions contained in the IECComm manual.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/07

The Meeting recommended that the scenario for the forthcoming ConvEx-3 (2013) include aspects that will encourage the active participation of States and of all international organizations participating in the JPLAN.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/08

The Meeting requested that exercise evaluations and analyses be disseminated by the IAEA Secretariat (IEC) to the States and relevant international organizations to allow them to identify areas requiring improvements.

STANDARDS AND GUIDES

Conclusion

CAM-2012/09

The Meeting encourages all States and all relevant international organizations to participate in the revision of GS-R-2.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/10

The Meeting took note of the IEC's current effort in the development of guidance on the establishment of emergency planning zones for different facilities and reactor types.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/11

The Meeting recommended that the IAEA Secretariat, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations, develop guidance on the management of contaminated material, cargo, shipments (non-food items), including criteria for what would be considered as acceptable safe contamination levels.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Conclusion

CAM-2012/12

The Meeting acknowledged the importance of establishing minimum compatibility requirements for response capabilities as a basis for effective international assistance for both the potential suppliers and receivers of assistance and recommended that the IAEA Secretariat (IEC) take action, in cooperation with States and relevant international organizations, to develop such requirements.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/13

The Meeting noted the importance of exercises to support the implementation of the Assistance Convention but suggested that, as much as possible, such exercises should be optimized and should build on existing national exercise programmes.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/14

On the issue of financing international assistance in a nuclear and radiological emergency, the Meeting noted that progress has been achieved by the IAEA Secretariat and recommended that the IAEA Secretariat review possible financing mechanisms and determine options to improve their use, in particular to accelerate the process to secure funds to provide international assistance as defined in the Assistance Convention.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/15

The Meeting expressed concern over the legal and liability issues related to the provision of assistance within the Assistance Convention and recommended that the IAEA Secretariat instigate a review of these issues with the goal of achieving clarity.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/16

The Meeting noted the suggestion by the European Commission for them to develop, in cooperation with the IAEA Secretariat, coordination mechanisms between the RANET and the EU civil protection system.

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Conclusion

CAM-2012/17

The Meeting encouraged all States and relevant international organizations who have not yet done so to register with the USIE.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/18

The Meeting recognised the importance of enhancing the implementation of the notification under the Early Notification Convention and the voluntary sharing of information on events that may be below the threshold contained in Article 1 of the Convention. Furthermore, the Meeting recommended that

the terms “report” and “reporting” be clarified to avoid possible confusion in some States and relevant international organizations, where this term has formal regulatory or legal implications.

NCACG

Conclusion

CAM-2012/19

The Meeting recommended to the IAEA Secretariat (IEC):

- a. To host a collaborative space on the IAEA server for the NCACG; and
- b. To develop and make available to the CA’s exercise manuals for different scenarios that can be used by the States to conduct their national exercises.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/20

The Meeting tasked the NCACG to:

- a. Assist the Secretariat (IEC) in promoting the participation in the ConvEx exercises;
- b. Promote the active participation of competent authorities and relevant international organizations in the development of minimum compatibility requirements; and
- c. Establish and maintain, in coordination with the IEC, a list of priorities and tasks to assist the IAEA Secretariat (IEC) in the implementation of the recommendations of this Meeting.

Conclusion

CAM-2012/21

The Meeting endorsed the following NCACG members and their alternates. The Meeting accepted the request by the North America region to send the designated representative names before the end of May 2012 due to the absence of the current regional representative from this Meeting. The Meeting also endorsed the proposal by the West and East Europe regions to be led by same representative for the next two years period, supported by one alternate from each region, until a merging of the two regions can be discussed at the next CA Meeting.

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	Alternate:	Mr. Iddi S.N. Mkilaha	Tanzania	mkilaha@yahoo.com
	Alternate:	Ms. Isabel Steyn	South Africa	isabel.steyn@necsa.co.za
Asia Pacific	Primary:	Mr. Mahboob Ali	Pakistan	m.ali@pnra.org
	Alternate:	Mr. Martin McGavin	Australia	martin.mcgavin@arpansa.gov.au
	Alternate:	Mr. Xu Ping	China	xuping@caea.gov.cn
Eastern EU	Alternate:	Mr. Marjan Tkavc	Slovenia	marjan.tkavc@gov.si
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ATTACHMENT I: NON-PAPERS

Non-paper

Japan's Proposals for enhancing the implementation of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident

April, 2012

Japan has gained such experience as described in Section 1 below through the accident at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station of Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) (hereinafter referred to as "the Fukushima accident"). Based on this experience, Japan would like to propose to strengthen the international system for notification of nuclear accidents as described below.

1. Experience of the Fukushima Accident

1-1 The Government of Japan, since the occurrence of the Fukushima accident last year, has provided as much information as possible widely to the IAEA and States including neighboring ones based on the recognition that it is important to provide accurate information swiftly to the international community with the maximum transparency.

1-2 On the other hand, generally speaking, it would not be always easy to determine whether a nuclear accident corresponds to "the event of any accident from which a release of radioactive material occurs or is likely to occur and which has resulted or may result in an international transboundary release that could be of radiological safety significance for another State" as stipulated in Article 1.1 of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (hereinafter referred to as "the Notification Convention") immediately after the occurrence of the accident. In particular, it may be more difficult for a State like Japan which is surrounded by the sea on all sides. However, in order to respond to a nuclear accident in an effective way, it is extremely important to ensure the swift provision of information on the accident even when it is not easy to make a judgment on existence of a release of radioactive material and on the possibility of an international transboundary release that could be of radiological safety significance for another State.

1-3 From these perspectives, the Government of Japan pointed out, in its report to the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety in June 2011, that

“The Japanese Government considers that, for the purpose of ensuring smooth and steady international communication when nuclear accident occurs, it is adequate to discuss establishment of an international process for notification to the IAEA, whenever a certain level of accident occurs, regardless of resulting in an international transboundary release or not.”

2. Proposals for Improving the International System for Notification on Accidents

Based on the experience described in Section 1 above, Japan believes it appropriate to develop an international system in which a State is requested to notify the IAEA promptly, voluntarily and actively when a nuclear accident occurs even before judging whether the accident is the one defined as “the event of any accident from which a release of radioactive material occurs or is likely to occur and which has resulted or may result in an international transboundary release that could be of radiological safety significance for another State.” In this regard, Japan proposes the following:

A. Scope of the accidents to be notified

2-1 From the viewpoint of sharing information internationally and widely in case of a nuclear accident, it might not be excluded to request States to notify the IAEA of every accident regardless of its scale. However, in this case, even small events would be reported to the IAEA and as a result the notification process might lose swiftness and smoothness.

2-2 The Government of Japan proposes to request States to notify the IAEA of a certain level of accident even before judging whether the accident corresponds to the one defined under Article 1.1 of the Notification Convention, and to establish a working group consisting of international experts to consider the details of notification (including the criteria of “a certain level of accident”).

2-3 At the same time, as it appears that it takes a certain period of time for the consideration by the working group, Japan proposes that until the details of notification is established by the working group, States be encouraged to actively notify the IAEA of “an event which is required to be notified to the domestic authorities under the domestic laws and regulations on the response to nuclear emergency.” In this regard, it is considered that all States conducting nuclear and other radiological related activities have the system of notification to their

domestic authorities in case of nuclear emergency, and therefore, it seems relatively easy to notify the IAEA of those events which are required to be notified to the domestic authorities. Also, as it is considered that “an event which is required to be notified to the domestic authorities under the domestic laws and regulations on the response to nuclear emergency” differs among States, the Government of Japan proposes, from the viewpoint of maintaining transparency, to make a list of relevant laws and regulations of each State and to attach it to Incident and Emergency Communication Manual (IEComm) with a view to making sure such events to be notified to the IAEA by each State.

2-4 To describe as a reference, in Japan, operators of nuclear installations are required, under the Act of Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and its related government ordinance and rules to notify the authority in case the following events occur. In practice, the Government of Japan has notified the IAEA of a wider range of events than those of the following when they seem to bring about concerns of the international community. Japan intends to continue this practice.

【Events required to be notified under the Act of Special Measures Concerning Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and relevant government ordinance and rules】

- In case radiation level of “ $5 \mu\text{Sv/h}$ or more is detected at one point for more than consecutive ten minutes” or “ $5 \mu\text{Sv/h}$ or more is detected at two or more points simultaneously” at the site boundary
- In case concentration of radioactive materials “equivalent to $5 \mu\text{Sv/h}$ or more” is detected at usual release points such as stack
- In case “radiation level of $50 \mu\text{Sv/h}$ or more or the release of radioactive material equivalent to $5 \mu\text{Sv/h}$ or more” is detected as a result of a fire, explosion etc. (outside the controlled area)
- In case incidents and events reflecting the characteristics of nuclear installations (ex. Anticipated Transient Without Scram (ATWS), Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA), Station Black Out (SBO)) occur

B. Nature of the notification and way to strengthen the notification system

2-5 An amendment of the Notification Convention could be one possible way to ensure the notification described in Section A above. However, as amending the Notification Convention takes a mid-to-long term period of time, it is important to realize swiftly the strengthening of the notification system through the enhancement of the implementation of the Notification Convention while the

possibility of the amendment remains in the mid-to-long term.

2-6 The Government of Japan considers it necessary to revise IECComm accordingly in order to enhance the implementation of the Notification Convention. Japan would like to ask the IAEA Secretariat to consider the details of the revision of IECComm, but raises some examples of the revision. Japan proposes to add the sentences, in the introduction part of Chapter 4 of IECComm, that "Active and prompt voluntary notification to the IAEA is encouraged regardless of emergency categorization before judging whether the accident corresponds to the one defined under Article 1.1 of the Notification Convention." and "Until the details of notification are established, States are encouraged to notify the IAEA of an event which is required to be notified to the domestic authorities under the domestic laws and regulations on the response to nuclear emergency." Further, as mentioned in Section A above, it would be possible to make a list of domestic laws and regulations on the response to nuclear emergency of each State and to attach it as an appendix to IECComm. In any case, the Government of Japan would like to propose to request the IAEA Secretariat to consider this.

2-7 In addition, the Government of Japan proposes to revise the notification formats which IECComm describes the utilization of. In the notification formats, there is a part requesting the clarification of whether an event corresponds to the accident defined under Article 1.1 of the Notification Convention. However, as described in Section 1-2 above, it would not be always easy to determine whether the accident is the one defined under Article 1.1 of the Notification Convention. Also, non-State parties to the Convention have utilized the formats and it is better to avoid any difficulty in writing up the formats in order to ensure continuous utilization by them. Japan therefore proposes to request the IAEA Secretariat to revise the formats in such a way as the attachment to this non-paper.

2-8 Furthermore, from the viewpoint of ensuring the notification, the Government of Japan considers it appropriate to encourage the implementation of IECComm by some political documents such as a resolution of the IAEA General Conference after making necessary revision on IECComm.

3. Actions to Be Taken

Summary of the actions described in Section 2 above are as follows:

- To establish an international system in which States are required to notify the IAEA promptly, voluntarily and actively when a nuclear accident occurs even before judging whether the accident corresponds to the one defined under Article 1.1 of the Notification Convention
- To Establish a working group consisting of international experts to consider the details of notification
- To make a list of “events which are required to be notified to the domestic authority under domestic laws and regulations on the response to nuclear emergency”
- To request the IAEA Secretariat to work on the revision of IEComm
- To request the IAEA Secretariat to work on the revision of the notification formats
- To consider the creation of some political documents such as a resolution of the IAEA General Conference which encourages the implementation of IEComm

Header | Basic Information | Event Description | Actions Taken/Planned | Media Information | Other Relevant Information

Add Recipients

Add Contact Points to which this report shall be forwarded directly by USIE

Attachment
GENF/SRF

Other Countries Informed:

List other countries to which this report is sent directly (e.g. via fax)

Message Number: *

Confidentiality: *

Codeword: *

Free for public use

Basic Information

Reporting State

Reporting State: *

Japan

Official Notification

This is a Notification under Article 2 of the Early Notification Convention
This is a Notification under the Early Notification Convention
This is a Notification by a non-state party to the Early Notification Convention

Competent Authority

Competent Authority: *

Telephone: *

Fax:

Email:

Website URL:

Contact Person (Official Position):

Nature of Event

Event Type: *

Non Paper

20 April, 2012

6th Meeting of Representatives of the National Competent Authorities
identified under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on
Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency

**Russian Proposals for Strengthening and Implementation
of the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on
Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency**

The Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (entered into force in 1986) are the core elements of the international nuclear safety legal basis.

The accident at Fukushima-Daiichi NPP in Japan has revealed gaps in the international legal framework for early provision of information about nuclear accidents that is governed first of all by the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident.

In April 2011, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev proposed initiatives to strengthen the international legal regime of nuclear safety and to strengthen responsibility of States for providing a timely and adequate response to an accident in order to minimize its impact.

1. Meetings of Representatives of the National Competent Authorities (NCA) identified under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency have the status of technical meetings.

During NCA Meetings, there is no exchange of information on the status of States Parties regarding capacity-building, emergency preparedness and response.

At the NCA Meetings the IAEA Secretariat informs the participants about important developments in this area.

States Parties are not required to present at the NCA Meetings their national reports on implementation of the commitments and objectives of the Convention and the reports are not subject to review regarding the implementation of the conventions at a national level.

At the NCA Meetings, no conclusions regarding the work done by States Parties and the necessary measures to improve national capacities are being driven.

NCA Meetings are held in English only with no interpretation provided.

NCA Meetings illustrate that the "emergency" Conventions have no binding mechanism to implement the provisions of the States Parties.

At the same time, the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Joint Convention have a mechanism for their implementation which provides for the meetings to review national reports of the Contracting Parties on implementation of the commitments (Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules (INFCIRC/602/Rev.3), Guidelines regarding the Review Process (INFCIRC/603/Rev.4), Guidelines regarding the Form and Structure of National Reports (INFCIRC/604/Rev.1)).

2. The IAEA is carrying out a great job by creating the necessary framework (methodologies, guidelines, training materials) in the field of emergency preparedness and response (planning, notification, communication, assistance, conducting exercises and training, etc.).

Created and furthered is RANET. It is a useful tool to achieve the objectives of the conventions. However, the voluntary basis of this network does not motivate States Parties having nuclear installations on their territory to participate in RANET.

Developed and established are IAEA standards in this field.

However, these documents have no legally binding status.

Legally binding on States Parties are the provisions of International Conventions.

3. At the 6th NCA Meeting, a number of substantive proposals that could strengthen the international system of emergency preparedness and response.

The Geo Information System (GIS) developed in the USA appears to be an appropriate tool for implementation of the conventions. It could help monitoring the radiation environment, perform its analysis and provide forecasts in a unified system of the parameters, criteria and coordinates.

It is important to consolidate knowledge, experience and potential of the NPP operators in the initial stages of an accident in order to minimize its consequences. As an example, Russia has started to implement this approach by creating the Regional Crisis Centre for operators of nuclear power plants with VVER-type reactors.

The Russian initiative to establish a regional center of WANO and the French initiative to establish International Rapid Response Mechanism in case of nuclear emergencies and establishment of an international educational center complement each other.

4. Russian Proposals on Actions to be taken:

- To introduce an obligation of a State Party to provide a preliminary assessment of an accident (the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) could be an relevant tool for this purpose), which will allow State to respond appropriately to emergency situations.
- To develop a mechanism to implement the "emergency" Conventions and, if necessary, amend them.
- To establish an Open Ended Working Group to work out proposals on improvement and strengthening of the "emergency" Conventions.