

Thailand's Statement by
H.E. Mr. Songsak Saicheua,
Ambassador and Resident Representative of Thailand to the IAEA,
at the International Ministerial Conference on
Nuclear Power in the 21st Century,
Abu Dhabi, 30 October – 1 November 2017

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. At the outset, I wish to express my appreciation to the Government of the UAE and Ambassador Alkaabi for hosting and chairing this important conference. My appreciation also goes to the IAEA¹ and the NEA of the OECD² for their co-organization, as nuclear power plays an important role in ensuring future energy security. Nuclear power generates clean and low-carbon electricity that helps meet increasing global demand and provide a basic infrastructure for growth and prosperity. It could also contribute to sustainable development and mitigating climate change.

Mr. President,

2. Thailand has learned that the UAE will soon commission its first nuclear power plant. A nuclear power program is a major undertaking for any country. Its success requires clarity and certainty of national policy, technical know-how, comprehensive planning, adequate financing, human resource development, strict regulatory control, as well as broad public acceptance. Innovations in financing and nuclear technology – particularly concerning

¹ International Atomic Energy Agency

² Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

reactor designs and safety and reliability aspects – have made nuclear power more affordable and appealing to many countries.

3. However, safety and security are paramount to the consideration of embarking on a nuclear power program. Maximum levels of nuclear safety and security, based upon IAEA safety standards and security guidance, must be applied to all steps involved in nuclear power generation, from nuclear fuel cycle to radioactive waste management.

4. Public acceptance is another crucial factor. The involvement of all stakeholders in nuclear policy formulation and investment decisions are central to the success of a nuclear power program. Openness, transparency as well as timely and regular communications with the public are fundamental to building public confidence and support.

5. Thailand recognizes the IAEA's central role in the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and commends the IAEA's contribution to assist Member States to develop and operate nuclear power programs in a safe, secure and sustainable manner. International cooperation is also essential and should be further promoted, especially in sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

6. For Thailand, we continue to monitor and study the global development of nuclear power in formulating our nuclear energy policy.

7. At the moment, Thailand is undertaking relevant research and development at the national and regional levels. Our national research has been focused on small modular reactors, safety aspects as well as emergency preparedness and response. Additionally, since this March, Thailand, together with six other ASEAN countries, has established the ASEAN Network for Nuclear Power Safety Research with the aim of supporting future nuclear power programs in the Southeast Asia region.

8. Thailand also recognizes the necessity of having in place a more comprehensive nuclear regulatory framework in order to prepare for the extended utilization of nuclear energy. The entry into force this February of our new Nuclear Energy for Peace Act has contributed towards this end and paved the way for our joining of the remaining nuclear-related international legal instruments.

Mr. President,

9. In closing, I wish to assure you of my delegation's full support and constructive engagement with other participants in this high-level dialogue in order to ensure its successful conclusion. I thank you for your kind attention.
