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Communication dated 10 January 2017 received from the Permanent Mission of Japan concerning a Joint Statement on Transport Security of Nuclear Materials

Joint Statement on Transport Security of Nuclear Materials

1. The Secretariat has received a communication dated 10 January 2017 from the Permanent Mission of Japan on behalf of the Governments of Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Spain, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America requesting the Secretariat to bring the communication and its attachment to the attention of all IAEA Member States.
2. As requested, the communication and its attachment are herewith circulated for the information of all Member States.

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The Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organization in Vienna presents its compliments to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and on behalf of the Government of Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Spain, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States, has the honour to request that the IAEA Secretariat bring this note verbale and the attached Joint Statement on Transport Security to the attention of all IAEA Member States.

As the lead country of transport security giftbasket initiative in the Nuclear Security Summit process, Japan is pleased to bring to the attention of the IAEA that Japan welcomes the participation of all IAEA Member States that subscribe to the goals set out in the Joint Statement on Transport Security and wish to contribute to the advancement of its work. IAEA Member States wishing to join the work on transport security are encouraged to notify Japan and the IAEA Secretariat via note verbale and to request such official communication be circulated as an INFCIRC document to all IAEA Member States. Transport security is important for those countries that transport nuclear materials and countries considering construction of new nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities. Good Practices Guides for road, maritime, railroad, and air transport produced in 2016 to secure transport security would be practical and helpful. Please refer to the following link. http://www.mofa.go.jp/dns/n_s_ne/page3e_000467.html

The Permanent Mission of Japan avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the IAEA assurance of its highest consideration.

Attachment: Joint Statement on Transport Security of Nuclear Materials

10 January 2017
Vienna

To the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency



Joint Statement on Transport Security of Nuclear Materials

Introduction

On the occasion of the Third Nuclear Security Summit held in The Hague, in the Netherlands, on March 24-25, 2014, the leaders of the participating States of the Transport Security Gift Basket, namely France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, and the United States, issued a Joint Statement to express their commitment to work together to further improve security in the transport of nuclear and other radioactive materials.

In the 2014 Joint Statement, the participating states of this Gift Basket expressed their intention to consider conducting table-top exercises for all transport modes (road, rail, maritime, and air) and proposed, among other actions, to share the good practices of above-mentioned activities with the International Atomic Energy Agency and other States while protecting sensitive information in order to actively contribute to the IAEA's drafting efforts of the Nuclear Security Series. The participating countries also stated that additional participating States were welcome, especially those that had experience in transport of nuclear materials.

On December 1-3, 2015 the above five countries, joined by Canada, Hungary, and Kazakhstan, met in Tokyo, Japan and committed to continuing the implementation of the 2014 Joint Statement. Furthermore, Japan, Kazakhstan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, with assistance from other participating States, produced four good practices guides for air, rail, road, and sea transport modes. Each of these guides is based on the way the lead country conducts its operations, so the subjects of emphasis vary from guide to guide. These four guides exemplify how these States implement the relevant international documents in their national systems, based on their experiences with and knowledge of the respective transport mode.

Initiatives

On the occasion of the Fourth Nuclear Security Summit held in Washington DC on March 31 to April 1, 2016, the Governments of Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Spain, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the United States reaffirmed their will to further improve the overall security in the transport of nuclear and other radioactive materials and, in this regard, expressed their commitment to:

- Further exchanging national practices with other countries through the IAEA and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). In this respect, the four “good practices guides,” which are attached to this Joint Statement, may provide practical examples of how States can put into practice their international obligations and take into account international recommendations.
- Actively supporting the IAEA as the central organization for coordinating activities and developing guidance documents, and supporting the GICNT and the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction in developing and implementing its activities, both of which are for the implementation of nuclear transport security obligations after the Nuclear Security Summit 2016.