



INPRO
International Project on
Innovative Nuclear Reactors
and Fuel Cycles

INPRO Dialogue Forum on Global Nuclear Energy Sustainability:

Licensing and Safety Issues for Small- and Medium-sized Reactors (SMRs)

*29 July – 2 August 2013, IAEA Headquarters, Vienna, AUSTRIA
IAEA Board Room A (M-0237)*

Opening Address

Mr Jong Kyun PARK

Director, Division of Nuclear Power

IAEA Department of Nuclear Energy

Distinguished representatives, participants, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency, I would like to welcome you all to the sixth INPRO Dialogue Forum on Licensing and Safety Issues for Small- and Medium-sized Reactors, in short SMRs.

This Forum offers a platform for Member States to discuss issues of sustainable development and deployment of nuclear energy. It facilitates a common understanding of the needs and potential role of different stakeholders in countries considering nuclear power for their national energy mix; and it addresses opportunities and challenges of countries which are developing and applying advanced technologies.

We are now witnessing a global interest in SMRs. So it is timely that this Forum addresses licensing and safety issues for SMRs.

SMRs can offer important advantages for nuclear newcomer countries, particularly to those with small electric grids, with less-developed infrastructure, and limited investment capabilities. Countries with existing nuclear power programmes may consider SMRs for specialized applications, for example, deployment in remote areas, process heat applications and desalination.

There are, however, some challenges to be addressed relevant to the regulatory framework, associated with the advanced specificity and unique features of SMRs that were not incorporated in conventional large-sized reactors, as well as their broader options of utilization, including deployment in remote areas and its utilization with non-electric applications.

Many embarking countries have expressed interest in SMRs, but are still in favour of 'proven' technology; so they want SMR technology to be first deployed in the country of origin to minimize licencing and performance risks. Member States also have expressed their wish that technology developers, nuclear regulatory authorities, and operating organizations primarily responsible for reactor safety, incorporate the

lessons learned from the Fukushima Daiichi accident into the operating plants as well as in new nuclear power plants including SMRs.

Advanced SMRs, particularly those integral pressurized water reactors with modularization technology are not yet commercially available even though several countries are moving in this direction.

This is where the Agency -- with the continued support from the Member States -- can play an important role in supporting technology developers and potential users to address technology requirements of SMRs.

I am pleased that over 100 experts and representatives from **37** Member States and 5 International Organizations are attending this forum to discuss licensing and safety issues of SMRs.

You will primarily take into account considerations for the design, siting, application of graded approaches, legal and regulatory framework, and public participation in the SMR licensing process.

We expect that this Forum will provide valuable feedback for Member States' regulatory bodies. At the same time, several countries which develop different types of SMRs will benefit from the exchange of knowledge and experience among Member States. Also, the results of this workshop will provide important input for future Agency's activities in this area.

This Dialogue Forum is jointly organized by the Agency's Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, and the Department of Nuclear Energy. I believe that it is essential for us to work closely together in helping Member States develop nuclear energy programmes and this is one of the excellent examples of close cooperation between the two Departments.

The IAEA studies in the past decade have revealed that SMRs can play an important role in the global sustainable energy development as part of an optimal energy mix. Therefore, the Agency continues its various programmes. This includes formulating a roadmap for technology development, reviewing newcomer countries' requirements including regulatory infrastructure, and defining performance indicators for operation. Technical meetings, workshops and dialogue forums are effective means to achieve this goal.

I wish to thank the Agency's Department of Nuclear Safety and Security for initiating to conduct this forum and for their support.

I thank the Scientific Secretaries: Mr Russell GIBBS from the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security, and Mr Pill-Hwan PARK and Mr Hadid SUBKI from the Department of Nuclear Energy and their hard-working team for arranging this important and well attended Dialogue Forum on SMRs.

On behalf of the IAEA, I wish to thank the governments of the **Republic of Korea** and **the United States of America** for their generous **Extra-Budgetary contribution** for **Peaceful Uses Initiatives** --, without their support, this Dialogue Forum would have not been possible.

I also thank all participants, presenters, and particularly, the **Leaders** and **Co-Leaders** of the five break-out sessions for their leadership in this important activity.

Finally, based on the recommendation from the Scientific Secretaries, I would like to propose **Mr David NEWLAND** from **Canada** as chairman and **Mr Poong-Eil JUHN** from **the Republic of Korea** as co-chairman for this Dialogue Forum.

I would like to ask **Mr Newland** and **Mr Juhn**: would you kindly accept this proposal?

Thank you for your kind acceptance.

Now, I would like to ask all participants: would you approve the chairmanship of Mr Newland and Mr Juhn?

Thank you for your approval.

I wish you all a very productive and exciting week here in Vienna, and now, I declare this Dialogue Forum open. Next, I'd like to turn the meeting over to Mr Newland and Mr Juhn. Thank you both for taking on this leadership role.