

**12th GIF-IAEA Interface Meeting**

# **Opening Remarks**

**Monday, 26 March 2018, 9:30**

**Vienna, Austria**

**M Building, MOE100**

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**Deputy Director General and**

**Head of the Department of Nuclear Energy**



**IAEA**

**International Atomic Energy Agency**

Mr Storrer (*GIF Policy Director*),  
Mr Stanculescu (*GIF Technical Director*),

Dear Participants, A very nice good morning!

On behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency, I warmly welcome you all to this 12th GIF-IAEA Interface Meeting.

We have participants from 6 Member States of the Generation IV International Forum, from the European Commission, and from the OECD NEA... Of course we have colleagues from my Department of Nuclear Energy,, and from the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security.

This meeting is an excellent venue to exchange information on next generation reactor development activities and to review the status of cooperation between the GIF and the IAEA.....

For many years, this interface meeting focused on the synergies between the IAEA INPRO Project and GIF. But over time, more collaboration activities were identified on advanced reactor technologies, falling within the scope of our Nuclear Power Technology Development Section (NPTDS). Cooperation then expanded into several areas including economic analysis, nuclear safety, security and safeguards. We have therefore concluded that the name “GIF-IAEA interface meeting” reflects this reality better than “INPRO-GIF interface meeting”.

Our INPRO Section and the Nuclear Power Technology Development Section will continue organizing this meeting... And here, let us give a hand to Scientific Secretaries Frederik Reitsma and Bongsoo Kim,, and to Marina Gam who assisted on the administration side,, for their efforts. [*applaud*].....

At this meeting, we will look into action items from the last Interface Meeting held in February 2017,, and into possible new areas of cooperation.

I understand that this year more emphasis is placed on the cooperation of 2 of the 6 advanced reactor concepts under GIF, i.e. the Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor and the Very High Temperature Reactors, including the continued cooperation in developing appropriate Safety Design Criteria. However, there will be the opportunity to discuss also the future cooperation on LFRs and MSR.

And as you know, the IAEA has provided its comments to the GIF document “Safety Design Guidelines for GEN-IV SFRs”...

Interest in Small Modular Reactors are growing and also in this area advanced reactor technology is key.

- The IAEA established a new Technical Working Group on SMRs, which will meet for the first time next month to assist in identifying common topics of interest in Member States.
- We have conducted a special SMR session at the third IAEA International Conference on Fast Reactors and Related Fuel Cycles, held in Yekaterinburg, in June last year...
- And last September, our General Conference Side Event on “Nuclear High Temperature Heat for Industrial Processes” focussed on modular High Temperature Gas Cooled Reactors...
- Also last year, we have launched a new Coordinated Research Project to study the technical basis to determine the emergency planning zone for Small Modular Reactors. The importance of this topic for a broad deployment of SMR also led to the inclusion of the specific presentations at this meeting. All these SMR activities include consideration for the advanced reactor technologies.

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Dear Colleagues,

We further look forward to discussing cooperation in several cross-cutting areas, such as the future energy market. The IAEA helps countries to use nuclear and isotopic techniques and thereby contribute directly to reaching 9 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals... One of these, Goal 7, on “**affordable & clean energy**”, is clearly an area where nuclear energy can play a huge role that will also help us realize the others... Also, without a significant role for nuclear power, the Paris Climate Change goals cannot be reached. As such, advanced reactor technology will play an important role in climate action, as countries review their commitment and plans every 5 years. The other areas of cooperation are education and training,, and research infrastructure needs, for which GIF has recently established two specific task forces.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Interface Meetings held so far testify to continued mutual interest and steady cooperation between GIF and the IAEA. This dialogue creates an important link between the Agency’s diverse efforts to support Member States and an important international R&D collaboration among several leading nuclear technology nations.

I also appreciate contributions from the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security. We hope that our efforts to expand the scope of cooperation topics to be explored will also bare good fruit. This diversity and input make this meeting certainly more informative and productive.

Hoping that our discussions over the next two days strengthen the cooperation between GIF and the IAEA, I wish you all a successful meeting and a pleasant stay in Vienna..... Thank you!