

Luis Reyes
Conference President's Address
International Conference on Operational Safety Performance in Nuclear Installations

I am honored to act as Conference President and am excited about what is planned over the next few days. I wanted to take a moment to go over how this conference came to be, the objectives of the conference, the agenda, and some ground rules for participation.

BACKGROUND

In 1991, the IAEA organized the "International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power: Strategy for the Future." Recommendations from that conference prompted actions in the following years that advanced the safety of nuclear installations worldwide, and included the establishment of the Convention on Nuclear Safety.

In 1998, the IAEA sponsored the "International Conference on Topical Issues in Nuclear, Radiation and Radioactive Waste Safety." In response to the concerns identified and the recommendations provided by the conference, many actions were taken to improve the monitoring of safety.

In 2001, the IAEA sponsored the "International Conference on Topical Issues in Nuclear Safety." The findings were again essential in providing the IAEA and the nuclear industry with insights as to where future activities should be focused.

In 2004, the IAEA organized the "International Conference on Topical Issues in Nuclear Safety" in Beijing China. The results of this conference confirmed the importance of operators and regulators of nuclear facilities meeting periodically to share experience and opinion on emerging issues and future challenges of the nuclear industry.

And that leads us here today, to this conference where we intend to do just that.

OBJECTIVE

So the objective of this conference is to exchange information on topical issues in nuclear safety. The conference will work towards developing an international consensus on the basic approaches for dealing with these issues, and will propose recommendations concerning:

- the present status of these issues;
- priorities for future work;
- need for strengthening international cooperation, including recommendations for future activities for the IAEA, nuclear utilities and regulatory authorities; and
- emerging issues with international implications.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

I'd like to take a moment to briefly review the structure of the conference. This morning will feature a number of keynote addresses, including one from Peter Lyons, one of the NRC's Commissioners. Then, starting this afternoon and running through Friday morning, a series of four technical sessions that make up the heart of the conference will

address the following four topics:

- How best to learn from and share operational safety experience and manage changes during all life cycle phases? (this afternoon)
- How best to learn from and share experiences on regulatory management systems and to harmonize regulatory approaches? (tomorrow morning)
- How best to achieve and ensure the safety of extended operations? (tomorrow afternoon)
- How best to ensure that a global regime of operating experiences is reflected into the design, construction, commissioning and operation of new and evolutionary reactors? (Friday morning)

Each session will consist of:

- an overview presentation and summaries of the relevant contributed papers;
- invited keynote paper(s);
- discussion lead-in statements; and
- open discussion.

There will be an hour allotted for discussion after each of these sessions, and I strongly recommend to you to participate in these discussions. Share your opinions and share your experiences because conclusions and recommendations will be drawn up after these discussions.

Friday afternoon, the conference will feature a concluding session at which the overall results and conclusions of all topical sessions and the panel discussions will be summarized by the chairpersons. Recommendations for the future development of international co-operation, including how to transfer the results of the topical discussions to the IAEA's programs, will also be discussed.

Also, don't forget to spend some time looking over the many worthwhile poster sessions. I think you'll find some very interesting topics are featured.

GROUND RULES

I wanted to take a moment to go over some ground rules for the conference. Please turn off or set to vibrate all cell phones, pagers, beepers... anything that may disrupt a speaker or a discussion if it goes off. If you have a question about a speaker's presentation, please wait until that speaker has finished his presentation before you attempt to ask it. Let's try to keep it to one person speaking at a time so everyone can follow the discussion, and when you make question or comment, please take a moment first to identify yourself along with your organization. And as I stated before, I strongly recommend to you to participate in discussions and that includes asking questions. We are all here to learn something and make improvements on the work that is being done in the area of Operational Safety Performance, and exchanging ideas, experience, and information is the best way for that to happen.