

**ASEM SEMINAR ON NUCLEAR SAFETY:
NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

SINGAPORE, 13-15 JUNE 2012

**SUMMARY OF WORKING GROUP 1:
ENHANCING NATIONAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
INCLUDING MANAGING PUBLIC INFORMATION**

- Authorities appeared slow in responding to the Fukushima Daiichi incident
 - Various countries were awaiting IAEA's response even after media outlets (e.g. CNN) had shown scenes of explosions at the Fukushima plant
- Nuclear disasters are fortunately not regular
- But must plan ahead
 - IAEA documents as starting guide
- Suggested measures: continuous education of EPR teams, training at different levels, networking within and between countries, resources within and outside
- Use plain language
 - The first information that came from Japan post-Fukushima was very technical
 - Aware of IAEA templates
 - Applies to all Member-States
 - Need for back up plans
 - Need for consistent messaging

- People do not panic when they hear of disasters, but angry if messages are contradictory
 - Do not withhold information needlessly but make it understandable
- Integrated resource management
 - Need for better resource management
 - Proposal for international consortium to pool EPR resources
- Develop provincial expertise
 - Site specific, depends on many variables e.g. weather, environment
 - Develop provincial, sub-national capabilities
- Nuclear newcomers may face public resistance
 - Set-up centre/agency for dissemination of public information
 - Train speakers able to explain technical information plainly to the public
 - Engage NGOs early
 - Gain public trust
- Need legal framework and integrated government system in EPR
- Need clear organisational structures at regulator and operator levels
- Tendency to disregard existing plans and frameworks during crisis, e.g. stop importing food from Japan even if radiation not exceed limits

- This discredits existing regulations and standards
- Need for clearly defined organisational structures at each level – from plant, operator to national levels
 - With personnel consisting of not only managers, but relevant scientific, maintenance and operational experts
- Role of Regulatory Bodies in crisis communication
 - No need to make public more worried; but there is a need to worry people if needed
 - Need to balance the message
- EPR discussions to be kept alive
 - Lessons to be learned from Fukushima
 - Suggestions of further related meetings

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15 June 2012