

ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)
2nd Seminar on Nuclear Safety

International Instruments for Ensuring Nuclear Safety

4-5 November 2013, Vilnius
LITHUANIA

The event under the framework of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union
co-sponsored by the Governments of Japan and Singapore

CONCEPT

1. Background

Nuclear safety is, by definition, a global challenge as it can have broad transboundary impact on human health, environment and food safety. On the other hand, nuclear energy is likely to remain an important part of energy mix for the years to come. There are almost 50 countries that are operating, building, or simply considering nuclear energy as a viable solution for electricity generation. More than 60 nuclear power plants are now under construction, mostly in Asia. These numbers suffice to indicate that nuclear power will continue in the foreseeable future.

Part of the countries involved are newcomers, aiming to develop nuclear power production in order to meet rising power demands efficiently and to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Their plans to embark on a nuclear power programme mean, in the first instance, creating an appropriate nuclear infrastructure based on IAEA Safety Standards. Further, comprehensive safety assessments of each and every nuclear power plant should be carried out on a regular basis by using IAEA peer reviews and follow-up missions on regulatory effectiveness, operational safety, site and design safety and emergency preparedness.

The Fukushima Daiichi accident has triggered greater attention to issues of safety and regulation, including infrastructure and education. Global improvement of nuclear safety necessitates defining robust nuclear safety standards to which all countries that exploit, develop, or consider developing nuclear power, fully subscribe. In this regard, the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety was held in Vienna on 20-24 June 2011 to identify lessons learned from the nuclear accident in Fukushima Daiichi. It adopted a Ministerial Declaration calling for improvements in global nuclear safety. Subsequently, on 22 September 2011, the IAEA General Conference unanimously endorsed the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

On 13-15 June 2012, ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety focussing on the topic *National, Regional and International Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response* was held in Singapore as a follow-up to one of the five proposals by IAEA Director-General Yukiya Amano in his statement at the IAEA Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety, as well as to the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety.

2. Objectives

It is of utmost importance to strengthen the awareness of available international instruments which facilitate compliance with environmental and nuclear safety standards.

The main purpose of the Second ASEM Seminar on Nuclear Safety in Lithuania is to continue discussions on nuclear safety within ASEM which have been given a good start by Singapore in order to foster Asia-Europe cooperation in this area. The theme - *International Instruments for Ensuring Nuclear Safety* - was chosen to reflect the need to develop nuclear projects with due responsibility and respect to the highest international safety standards.

The two-day seminar will provide a platform for an exchange of views and sharing experiences on best practices among relevant policymakers and experts from governments, the European Commission, IAEA and other international organisations on international instruments for ensuring the development of nuclear power projects in compliance with international nuclear safety standards.