

Closing of the IAEA Workshop
November 4th, Seville

Thank you for your words Mr. Taniguchi

I should first like to thank on behalf of the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council all those persons that have made these working sessions possible: the City Council of Seville, the staff of the IAEA, all those member countries that have presented their missions, the other countries that have participated and all the organising personnel that have looked after us over these two days of intense work.

What we have been doing over the past couple of days has been quite simply a practical exercise in international cooperation. Very often we strive for cooperation as something highly desirable but difficult to put into practice. Today we have achieved it, and this has been possible thanks to the magnificent work of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

International cooperation is never easy, but if in addition it is to be achieved in the nuclear environment it becomes an even more delicate issue.

The drive provided by the IAEA, its methods and its personnel allow this initially complicated task to become a reality. An increasing number of countries are applying the nuclear safety standards of the International Agency. Every day we are more, and I trust that this trend will be consolidated in the future.

The IRRS missions are an important tool in the field of nuclear safety. We all know that the fundamental function of regulation in the nuclear sector is

to reduce risk in the use of ionising radiations or nuclear energy, maximising safety as a way to reduce risk and also increasing the confidence of the public in relation to safety, preventing unjustified alarm.

All of us regulators carry out our function, and we do this professionally, of this there can be no doubt. However, it is essential for us to be sure that the other countries around us are applying the same safety standards. For this reason, because we trust in our efforts and are willing to improve them, it is good for regulators to subject their work to external review.

It should be borne in mind that in a sense regulation exists because the public mistrusts the sector that is to be regulated. Consequently, the aim is not only to regulate the sector but also to promote confidence among the members of the public, as regards both the regulatory organisation and the regulated sector.

Applying the highest safety standards and ensuring that these are shared by the international community is the best way to promote trust in our work.

Nowadays, no country is capable of facing alone the major challenges that await it, and in this respect cooperation, understood in terms of the exchange of information, training, good practices and research, is destined to become the cornerstone of progress.

In this Workshop we have seen that the highest levels of regulation of the nuclear sector occur in those countries that have requested or plan to request missions from the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The IRRS missions are the best tool available to us to contrast quality in nuclear regulation at international level, and for this reason we should all contribute to the strengthening of this tool and to the maximum possible diffusion of all the information relating to it. There are many benefits to be achieved, among them a good state of health for our regulation, support for other countries in order for them to achieve optimum levels of safety and guaranteed international safety in the use of atomic energy.

The IRRS missions are also an exercise in responsibility, and as we all know, responsibility should be the fundamental basis for progress, a progress achieved through on-going improvement and a permanent state of alert aimed at preventing complacencies that might lead to a slackening in our demands.

As the Spanish regulator we are satisfied with the work performed and with the results of the mission, which have exceeded our initial expectations and will undoubtedly strengthen the institution in the performance of the tasks commissioned to us by the new law.

The IRRS missions are a tool of great importance in an international context and it would be very useful for the IAEA to analyse the possibility of establishing a general reference framework defining the criteria and procedures to be applied in the preparation and performance of future missions, on the basis of the important experience acquired from the missions undertaken to date. The aim would be to standardise the format of this programme and equip it with the necessary resources.

At the CSN we are fully convinced of the importance of promoting the use of IRRS missions, and we should like to take this opportunity to encourage the international community to participate more actively in this process.

As regards ourselves, participating in this process has been a great satisfaction and we shall bring all our efforts to bear to promptly implement the recommendations and suggestions made as a result of the mission. It has also been very positive for us to participate with the IAEA in the organisation of this Workshop.

In this respect, we should like to sincerely thank the international experts who made up the IRRS team for their efforts, interest and professionalism. We are fully aware of the admirable enthusiasm that they have applied in attempting to gain insight into the workings of the CSN and in making their experience available to us in order to improve our institution. On my own behalf and on that of all the members of the Council, thank you.

In conclusion, thank you all for attending and for your work. We wish you a good trip back home and encourage you to continue your efforts in performing the IRRS missions, which are the best possible proof of a team job well done.

Thank you