

Session 8

Stocktaking and Closure of the Meeting

In this session, the various each session rapporteur provided a short presentation of the main observations from his/her session, followed by a final presentation by the Chairman of the RWMC Regulators' Forum.

Closing Remarks

Uichiro Yoshimura

OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, France

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Nuclear Energy Agency of the OECD I would like to thank you all for your active participation in this workshop. Your input has been essential to its success.

Over the last two and a half days, we have had stimulating discussions on topics of current interest for policy makers, regulators and implementers of geological disposal. We have discussed a wide range of topics, including the needs for regulatory research in the present and how that will support the delivery of regulatory decisions that are both transparent and practical, the role of optimisation in safety cases and design, the responsibilities of succeeding generations that will complete the implementation of repository projects begun today, and regulatory criteria to be applied to safety cases for very long timescales, including the question of how to deal with human intrusion into a repository in the distant future.

There have been many thoughtful and fruitful ideas presented for the Regulators Forum to think about. The results of this workshop will be discussed at the next Regulators Forum meeting this March and will contribute importantly to the future work of the Forum in debating safety regulation for geological disposal.

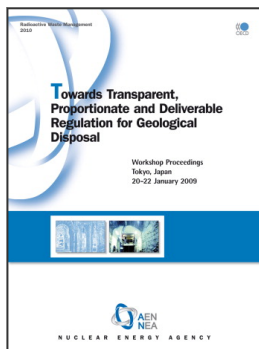
This has been a successful first workshop for the Regulators Forum. It has demonstrated the usefulness of this format for stimulating discussions, for involving a wide range of viewpoints, and for including the voices not only of regulators but of many other interested parties. This first workshop will serve as a model for future workshops to be organised by the Regulators Forum.

I was especially glad to hear the many messages of appreciation of the quality and usefulness that the NEA RWMC and its regulators Forum are providing and will report back on this to my Agency in Paris.

Dear colleagues, I thank you for your active participation in this workshop, which has helped make it a success. It has demonstrated the commitment of your organisations and your countries to continuing dialogue on the management and disposal of long-lived radioactive waste. The future work of the RWMC and its Regulators Forum will benefit from your input during the last few days.

Finally, on behalf of the NEA I would like to thank once again our hosts, the Government of Japan through its Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA), in co-operation with Japan Nuclear Energy Safety Organization (JNES), for arranging for us the excellent facilities that have helped make this event a success.

I wish you all a pleasant visit in Japan if you are taking the opportunity to visit, and a safe journey on your return home.



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