



Check against delivery

Remarks

at the occasion of

Workshop on the application and R&D of the technologies

of decontamination, remediation

and restoration of the environment

Adriaan van der Meer

Executive Director

International Science and Technology Center

Fukushima

4 February 2012

Dear Mr. Chair, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

I thank the organizers of today's workshop for the opportunity given to me to make a couple of opening remarks on behalf of the International Science and Technology Center.

Today's event comes at a crucial time namely eleven months after northeastern Japan was hit by a catastrophe of unprecedented dimension. We fully understand the suffering of the Japanese people to this day. Japan can count on our continued solidarity in assisting to address today's needs based on our know-how and experience.

Almost immediately after the events, ISTC started to consider possible actions that would allow a mitigation of the impact of the disaster to all directly concerned. ISTC realized that the tasks of the Japanese authorities were enormous and therefore considered that every effort should be made to lend support. Obviously an important factor is that Japan is a longstanding member of ISTC i.e., since the opening of the Center in 1994. This was an extra incentive to make the necessary know-how available.

ISTC projects on environmental remediation

ISTC has carried out substantial work in the area of the decontamination and rehabilitation of nuclear or radioactively contaminated sites. So far, about 130 projects relevant for the situation in Fukushima with a total value of 42 million USD have been completed. Out of this total, 30 projects directly relate to land decontamination and clean up. The allocated funds for these projects is 8,6 million USD.

A review of this work shows that technologies are available to assist in the clean up of the contaminated land around Fukushima. These technologies will be presented at today's workshop.

Our work has covered the following areas:

- Remediation of contaminated land;
- Development of mathematical models concerning radio nuclides;
- Solutions for water pollution and control;
- Decontamination of buildings and equipment;
- Assessment of radiological impact.

The work carried out by ISTC was done especially after the Chernobyl accident and after the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.

I am grateful for the opportunity to present these results at today's workshop.

Support Program

ISTC has not only carried out a review. The Center has also established a special support program to make the necessary scientific exchanges possible. The aim of the program is to provide support activities to the interested parties concerned. I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the US Department of Energy for making the implementation of this program possible.

Seminar in Fukushima

Here in Fukushima, broader issues, including stake holder issues, will be discussed, in addition to the technologies of decontamination, remediation and restoration of the environment. With the

participation of the people of Fukushima, other stakeholders and representatives of national authorities and other international organizations I expect that knowledge and experience on technologies that clean up the environment will be shared.

Today's workshop will be a step forward to bring solutions to Fukushima.

Finally

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the US Department of Energy for funding this Seminar and to all other organizations that support today's workshop.

I especially acknowledge the important role of MEXT of Japan, the Institute of Applied Energy and the Nuclear Safety Research Association.

I look forward to our discussion to bring solutions to the people of Fukushima.

I thank you for your attention,