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November 30, 2016

Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA)

Joint Communiqué

On the New Direction of the FNCA

We, the Heads of delegation of countries participating in the FNCA - Australia, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, The Republic of the Philippines, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Recalling that the FNCA's objective is to promote social and economic development through active regional partnership for the peaceful and safe utilisation of nuclear technology,

Acknowledging that the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism is constantly evolving in international society and sustaining nuclear security remains an urgent issue for the common benefit of member countries,

Realizing the importance of adequate preparation, especially infrastructural development such as legal instruments and human resources development in introducing nuclear power generation,

Continuing to recognize that tackling the issue of the safe management and disposal of radioactive waste which is generated in the process of nuclear research and development (R&D), and nuclear power generation, is very important,

Welcoming international cooperation with those multilateral nuclear-related organizations, such as the IAEA and OECD/NEA, which have vast experience in the complex area of stakeholder engagement, and a rich knowledge of nuclear legal matters for providing advice to member countries,

Appreciating that steady progress has been made with improvement of FNCA management and activities for fulfilling its mission,

Recalling that R&D, knowledge management and capacity building are, inter alia, the main activities of the FNCA which will lead to economic and social benefits for the member countries, and should be further accelerated,

Decided to work toward:

1. Action 1. Themes and activities to be promoted
 - Further advancing the radiation safety and radioactive waste management projects in order for member countries to tackle common issues related to nuclear energy and other nuclear applications such as agriculture, health, medicine, but not limited to these areas, such as stakeholder engagement in the region, construction of waste storage and disposal facilities, and promotion of radiation safety and safety culture,
2. Action 2. Promoting cooperation with international organizations in the complex/cross-cutting areas
 - Promoting cooperation with relevant international organisations, including the IAEA and the OECD/NEA, particularly in the field of legal matters, which will become an important issue in member countries as nuclear energy and the use of nuclear applications expand in the region, and which will be the focus of the '2017 SP/international Workshop' to be held in March 2017,
3. Action 3. Launching reform and continuous improvement of the FNCA meetings and management of FNCA activities
 - From 2017, launching new research projects, or new phases of on-going projects, with improved procedures for evaluating project proposals, as well as enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of FNCA activities through strengthening self-evaluation and instigating self-reform,
 - Establishing new Terms of Reference (TOR) for adoption at the MLM in 2017 which will help define the role and function of each of the meetings, thereby assisting participants in the meetings in clarifying responsibilities and ensuring effective communication,
4. Action 4. Introduction of "FNCA Award"
 - Introducing the 'Best Research Team of the Year' award and three 'Excellent Research Teams of the Year' award for the purpose of recognizing the remarkable achievements of the projects and their contribution to the FNCA's mission. The inaugural awards will be bestowed in 2017.