

The 15th FNCA Ministerial Meeting

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Statement

Moon Hai Joo

**Director General of Space & Nuclear Policy Bureau
the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning**

Head Delegate of the Republic of Korea

15th FNCA Ministerial Level Meeting

[Introduction]

Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Ministers and delegates,
It is a great honor and privilege
to address the 15th FNCA Ministerial level Meeting,
where we gather to discuss on-going issues of
nuclear cooperation in the Asian region.
On behalf of the Korean government,
I'd like to express my sincere gratitude
to the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
and to the delegates from the Japan Atomic Energy Commission
and the Japanese Cabinet Office
for organizing this beautiful meeting.

[Nuclear Status of Korea]

Mr. Chairman

The world is focused on developing nuclear energy
as the most realistic solution
to global warming and energy security issues,
climate change, and energy security.

Today,
with 23 operating nuclear reactors
that generate 30% of its electricity,
Korea is the world's fifth-largest nuclear energy producer
and plans are underway to build 11 new reactors.

In addition,
Korea has made its efforts
to transfer nuclear technology to the international community. As part
of such efforts,
Korea exported nuclear power plants
to the UAE and a research reactor to Jordan,
and recently has won a bid

to upgrade a research nuclear reactor in the Netherlands.

Furthermore,

Korea is working tirelessly to resolve global issues and is investing in the research and development (R&D) of technology innovations to ensure the sustainable development of nuclear energy.

As part of the effort

to support nuclear developing countries,

Korea has developed an advanced reactor called SMART (System-integrated Modular Advanced Reactor), which serves the two purposes of seawater desalination and electricity generation.

Korea is now working on the development of technologies that apply innovative concepts to improve its safety and economics feasibility.

In addition,

Korea has been preparing for the potential demand for the safe decommissioning of nuclear facilities through comprehensive research on relevant technologies.

The Korean government also established a Nuclear Energy-based Creative Economy Action Plan (2013-2017) to expand its research infrastructure for the development of radiation fusion technologies, disease diagnosis and treatment technologies, and applications of radiation and radioisotopes.

[Strengthening Nuclear International Cooperation]

Honorable Chairman,

The importance of nuclear safety and security cannot be overemphasized.

In this regard,

countries in the Asian-Pacific region particularly have to intensify their cooperation

in the field of nuclear safety.
Against this backdrop,
Korea, China and Japan
agreed on the establishment of TRM+,
which expands the existing Top Regulators Meeting.

Also, in the upcoming Second TRM+ meeting
to be held in November 2014 in Korea,
governments and academia from eight countries
will meet and discuss important issues
to enhance nuclear safety in the region.

In addition, Korea supports and
actively participates in international activities
pertaining to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
One example of this was
its hosting of the 2014 IFNEC Executive Committee
and Steering group meeting in October of this year.

Korea is leading to undertake research
and provide education on nuclear security and non-proliferation
through its launching of the International Nuclear Nonproliferation and
Security Academy (INSA)
in February of this year.

Mr. President,

The peaceful use of nuclear energy
is an important prerequisite
for the sustainable development of nuclear energy.

Korea has strengthened its partnerships
with FNCA member countries
from its beginning in 1990
and will continue to cooperate with members
in the areas of research reactor utilization development,
radiation utilization development,
nuclear safety strengthening,

and nuclear infrastructure strengthening.

In this context, Korea has actively participated seven projects, including those related to radiation oncology, nuclear security and safeguards.

Korea will actively share our knowledge and experience with member countries.

[Closing]

Honorable Chair
and distinguished delegates,

Korea firmly believes that
the FNCA has played a crucial role
in promoting nuclear cooperation in the Asian region.

I would like to wish a very successful meeting for all of us.

I also hope that today's meeting serve as an opportunity
to strengthen the partnerships among members.

Thank you for your attention.