

IAC/SCJ International Conference on the Impact of the Nuclear Plant Accident

Wednesday, 10th October, 2012
At the Auditorium of Science Council of Japan

Highlights

Wednesday, 10th October, 2012, InterAcademy Council (IAC) and Science Council of Japan (SCJ) collaboratively held their International Conference on the impact of Nuclear Plant Accident with the delegates and representatives from the IAC Member countries, honorable guest scientists and experts within the public audience.

With the main topics “What we learned from the Nuclear Plant Accident and the Roles of Science Academies in the World on Occasions of Severe Accidents,” Professor Yuan Tseh Lee, President, International Council for Science (ICSU), warned us with the fact that the current development patterns of human society are not sustainable, and stressed the need that we have to make an important turning point at the occasion of the Fukushima incident, with his speech “Human Society at the Crossroads.”

Professor Kiyoshi Kurokawa, as Commission Chairman of Fukushima Nuclear Accident Independent Investigation Commission of National Diet of Japan (NAIIC), pointed out what brought the severe accidents in Japan and where we shall go from here. Then, Professor Mathias Kleiner, President, German Research Foundation (DFG) and Co-Chair of the German “Ethics Commission for a Safe Energy Supply”, introduced the decisions made by the German Government to make a large shift of its energy policy after the Fukushima. This was largely contrasted by the speech of Dr. Yican Wu, Director, Institute of Nuclear Energy Safety Technology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), who explained China’s Nuclear Safety Activities, Post-Fukushima Review, as a representative from one of the countries that promote the use of nuclear energy, with great focus on increasing demand, safety and environment.

Another concern after the Fukushima was mentioned by Professor Yoshiharu Yonekura, President, National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS), who summarized one of the major concerns of the people at the affected areas and regions with his subject, “The medical management of radiation exposure from the nuclear accident: Challenges and lessons.”

Professor Alain Carpentier is President of French Academy of Sciences (who took his strong initiative to establish independent committees under the name of “Solidarité Japon” [Solidarity Japan] to help analyze the event as early as March 15th 2011, immediately after the East Japan Earth Quake) summarized in his

speech the updated information about their reports made by the committees and stressed the reinforcement of safety and radioprotection measures.

At the Panel Discussion after the speeches, representative and delegates from the science academies joined in addition to the speakers above, in order to add further information about the energy policies of their countries. These included Professor Daniel Ricquier, Vice-President, French Academy of Sciences; Professor Yoon Suk Koh, Member, The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) (Rep. of Korea); Professor Krishan Lal, President, Indian National Science Academy (INSA); Professor Daya Reddy, Advisor, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf); Professor Roger John Cashmore, Chairman, UK Atomic Energy Authority; Senior Fellow, the Royal Society (RS), UK; and Dr. John P. Boright, Executive Director, International Affairs, U.S. National Academy of Sciences. They reported on the current status of the nuclear and/or energy policies of their own countries, with some appropriate perspectives on science and technology.

Then the session has shifted to the discussion with the panel members, where the following three aspects were to be focused:

- 1: What we can learn from severe accidents of nuclear power plants?
2. Evaluation on current situation in Japan after severe nuclear power plant accident
3. What are roles of science academies in the world (including SCJ) at the occasion of such a severe accident?

The relevant panel members introduced their views and ideas, and when the session moved to the Q&A session, the questions raised by the participants as the public were addressed by the appropriate panel members.

The wrap-up session was conducted by the session chairs of the Panel Discussion. (See attached).

During the conference, Professor Robbert Dijkgraaf, Co-Chair, InterAcademy Council (IAC), Dr. John P. Campbell, Executive Director, IAC, Professor Takashi Onishi, President, Professor Masato Takeichi, Professor Yoshiaki Kobayashi, and Dr. Fumiko Kasuga, Vice-Presidents, Science Council of Japan (SCJ) led discussions in their role as session chairs.