

- ε [Contact Us](#)
- ε [Site Index](#)
- ε [News Feeds](#)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) IAEA Home

Search IAEA.org



- ε [About Us Who We Are](#)
- ε [Our Work What We Do](#)
- ε [News Centre Latest from IAEA](#)
- ε [Publications Books and Reports](#)
- ε [Nucleus Specialized Resources](#)

- ε [Top Stories & Features](#)
- ε [Topics in Focus](#)
- ε [Multimedia](#)
- ε [Press Centre](#)

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Press Release 2012/33

Fukushima Ministerial Conference Urges Continued Work to Strengthen Nuclear Safety

15 December 2012 | *Koriyama, Fukushima Prefecture, Japan* -- Strengthening nuclear safety is a continuous process that leaves no room for complacency, the Co-Presidents of the *Fukushima Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Safety* said in a statement today.

Koichiro Gemba, Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Fadillah bin Haji Yusof, Malaysia's Deputy Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, released the Co-Presidents' [Statement](#) at the conclusion of the Conference's Ministerial Plenary, on day one of the three-day event.

"It was stressed that nuclear safety is a prerequisite for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, that strengthening nuclear safety is a continuous process and that there should be no complacency in safety matters," the statement said.

The statement recognized progress reported by Japan in the response to the Fukushima Daiichi accident, including the achievement of the present stable status of the nuclear power station and the significant decrease in radioactive releases at the accident site. It stressed the importance of continued transparency in sharing objective information on the progress of decommissioning the plant, remediation and waste management, and encouraged Japan to lead an international effort to obtain data from the damaged reactors.

"The lessons learned from these activities, through their dissemination and related cooperation with the international community, are expected to contribute to enhancing the safety and effectiveness of future decommissioning and remediation activities worldwide," it said.

The statement emphasized the importance of strengthening the IAEA's central role in international efforts to enhance global nuclear safety, underlining the Agency's Safety Standards and the [IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety](#). It urged IAEA Member States to strengthen efforts to implement the *Action Plan* fully, including the use of international peer reviews and putting the recommendations of such reviews into practice.

It stressed the "utmost importance of establishing and sustaining competent national regulatory authorities with effective independence and adequate human and financial resources".

It also emphasized the importance of measures to prevent and mitigate severe accidents, including protection against extreme natural hazards, saying that "nuclear power plants should be designed, constructed and operated with the objectives of preventing accidents, and, should an accident occur, mitigating its effects and especially avoiding off-site contamination."

The statement said emergency preparedness and response plans and capabilities should be strengthened at all levels, and emphasized the importance of international cooperation in assessing the environmental and human impact of radioactive releases from a nuclear accident.

It stressed the importance of broadest adherence to the relevant international instruments, particularly the *Convention on Nuclear Safety*, and of further developing and strengthening communication with the public.

The statement also welcomed the IAEA's release at the Conference of reports on three International Experts' Meetings held this year, on [reactor and spent fuel safety](#), [protection against extreme earthquakes and tsunamis](#) and [communication in the event of a nuclear or radiological emergency](#).

Some 114 countries and 11 international organisations are attending the Conference, which aims to share knowledge and lessons from the Fukushima Daiichi accident, further enhance transparency and discuss the progress of international efforts to strengthen nuclear safety. Forty-four of these are attending at the level of minister or equivalent high rank, or head of organization.

The Conference, organised by the Government of Japan in co-sponsorship with the IAEA, continues through Monday with expert working sessions and a closing plenary. All sessions are [webcast live](#). More information about the Conference is available [here](#).

Press Contacts

- ⌄ Gill Tudor
IAEA Spokesperson (Currently in Japan)
[+43] 699 165 21275
g.tudor@iaea.org
- ⌄ Press Office
Division of Public Information
[43-1] 2600-21273
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- ε You are here:
- ε [Home](#)
- ε [newscenter](#)
- ε [press releases](#)
- ε pr2012/33

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- ε [Secretariat](#)
- ε [Employment](#)
- ε [Meetings](#)
- ε [Publications](#)
- ε [Statute of the IAEA](#)
- ε [Mission Statement](#)
- ε [Business Opportunities](#)

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- ε [Nuclear Energy](#)
- ε [Nuclear Safety and Security](#)
- ε [Nuclear Sciences and Applications](#)
- ε [Safeguards](#)
- ε [Technical Cooperation](#)

News Centre

- ε [Top Stories & Features](#)
- ε [Topics In Focus](#)
- ε [Press Releases](#)
- ε [Statements](#)
- ε [Multimedia](#)
- ε [IAEA Bulletin](#)

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- ε [Annual Reports](#)
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- ε [General Conference](#)
- ε [Board of Governors](#)
- ε [Member States](#)

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- ε [Nucleus Knowledge Portal](#)
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- ε [Power Reactor Information System](#)
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[International Atomic Energy Agency](#)

Vienna International Centre, PO Box 100

A-1400 Vienna, Austria

Telephone: (+431) 2600-0, Facsimile (+431) 2600-7

E-mail: [Official Mail](#)

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