Opening remarks

Hark Rho Kim, GIF Representative

I am highly pleased that GIF and IAEA have an Interface Meeting today and would like to extend my congratulations on the opening of the 10th meeting. I would also like to express my gratitude to the IAEA staff members that have successfully managed to host the meeting today, as well as Mr. Kyungwon Rho from INPRO and Dr. Alexander Stanculescu from GIF.

Let me talk you today about the fourth-generation space station while providing some historical context.

To date, mankind has created four space stations. The first-generation space station, Salyut, was launched in 1971, the second-generation, Skylab, in 1973, and the third-generation, Mir, in 1986.

The fourth-generation is the International Space Station (ISS) launched in 1998, with 16 participating countries, namely Brazil, Canada, Japan, Russia, United States, and 11 countries of the European Union. It contains far more modules than the third-generation, Mir. Its various modules include Canada’s robotic arms, Japan’s Kibo module, Russia’s emergency escape
system, the United States’ Unity/Destiny module, and so on.

Thirty years ago on this very day, April 11, the modern mariner Dodge Morgan received attention globally for his success in sailing solo non-stop around the world in just 150 days on the 18 meter boat, named American Promise.

On April 12, 55 years ago, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space on the Vostok 1 spacecraft.

On April 12, 35 years ago, the first U.S. space shuttle Columbia was successfully launched and orbited the earth 36 times before returning safely. These milestones marked the beginning of the era of space shuttles for humanity.

I believe that all of these historical days are a result of mankind's indomitable will and continuous challenge toward the advancement of scientific technology.

Just as the world joined forces to build the International Space Station, I hope GIF member countries and the Agency will work closely together toward the early commercialization of the fourth generation nuclear system.

This speech will end with a summary of GIF’s major achievements since our last meeting.

[ GIF 2015 Highlights ]

In a ceremony at OECD on February 26, 2015, four members signed the extension document of the Framework Agreement (FA) and the extension of 10 years until 2025 was
The Australian Government has petitioned to join the GIF. The Policy Group is considering the petition and, upon an invitation by ANSTO, a PG delegation visited Australia in February this year to assess ANSTO’s capabilities.

The third GIF Symposium was held in conjunction with ICONE 23 in Japan. The Symposium provided the opportunity to disseminate GIF’s various technical activities to a broader audience.

The 5th GIF-IAEA SFR Safety Workshop was held in June 2015 in Vienna. The workshop further expanded its scope into review and feedback of the safety design guidelines (SDG) currently being developed by the GIF SDC Task Force.

There had been interactions between GIF and the Nuclear Energy Agency’s CNRA in terms of licensing frameworks for advanced reactors. As a result, an ad-hoc group on the Safety of Advanced Reactors was formed in cooperation with CSNI. For now, the group is focusing on SFR safety issues.

GIF provided a statement for the UN Climate Change Conference, COP 21, held in Paris last year, to call for policy makers to acknowledge the real contributions that nuclear energy is making today to the mitigation of carbon emissions from the power sector, and to consider endorsing the deployment of advanced reactors to enhance further decarbonization of the world’s energy mix in the decades to
come.

The GIF chair will be newly appointed. The policy group seeks your cooperation and support for the organization to achieve further success.

I deeply appreciate your sincere attention.

Thank you.