



INPRO
International Project on
Innovative Nuclear Reactors
and Fuel Cycles

4th GIF-INPRO Interface Meeting

Welcoming and Opening Remarks by Mr Y. Sokolov

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1-3 March 2010, Vienna

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) I wish to welcome our colleagues from the Generation IV International Forum to this GIF-INPRO Interface Meeting. This is the 4th and looking at the number of participants the largest interface meeting and it is an important event in the ongoing mutually beneficial cooperation between GIF and IAEA/INPRO.

It is an opportunity to review the status and progress made in the action items agreed to at the last Interface meeting held in February 2008 between GIF and INPRO and to consider potential areas of expanded cooperation.

We appreciate hearing about status of GIF system development and look forward to the presentations from GIF participants. IAEA staff will present the status of INPRO and other IAEA activities in all areas of reactor and fuel cycle development.

INPRO project now has 31 members (30 IAEA Member States and the European Commission) and cooperates with all relevant Agency programmes.

There are important changes in INPRO organisational and thematic structure. Its activities have been consolidated into four major programmatic areas and the project, which has its 10th anniversary this year, is stable due to many active ongoing collaborative projects set among its members. The INPRO Methodology has reached a significant maturity and has been validated in several national and international nuclear energy assessment studies. INPRO team will present to you all relevant information.

As another important change since our previous meeting I would mention the decision of the Russian Government in 2008 to support INPRO for another five years. Historically, the Russian Federation has provided financial support on an annual basis, but at the end of 2008 they made a long-term decision. The growing visibility and recognition of INPRO among IAEA Member States have also led to the growth of financial support in 2010 from the Agency's regular budget.

INPRO collaboration with GIF and efforts made within the complementary frameworks are strongly supported by the Agency's Member States. This week we will report to the IAEA Board of Governors about trends in nuclear power development. Information about progress in INPRO project and GIF is included into the Agency's annual Nuclear Technology Review. International cooperation and collaboration are instrumental to both of our missions and objectives, and INPRO strives to work in synergy with other international initiatives such as the Generation IV International Forum (GIF). Recognition of the complementarities of two projects opens opportunities for the new forms of cooperation.

In this meeting we will continue the established tradition to inform each other about the most important achievements of both projects and results of activities identified on last meeting which include areas of Proliferation Resistance, Economics, Safety, and Non-electric applications. We are also expecting discussion of new areas of potential cooperation such as Modelling and Simulation, SMRs, Institutional innovations, Advanced fuel cycles including Thorium, advanced materials, and Education and Training.

In particular on Wednesday morning based on the earlier expressed interest we plan to consider modalities of further cooperation in the area of operational experience and safety criteria for sodium cooled fast reactors. The goal is to agree on a terms of reference and specific logistics for the first workshop in late May or early June of this year.

At the end of this meeting, we expect to agree on a concrete list of priority areas for continuing and expanding cooperation between GIF and INPRO.

Before concluding my opening remarks, I wish you all a successful meeting and a very pleasant and enjoyable stay in Vienna.

Thank you for your attention.