Opening Remarks
John Kelly
Chair, Generation IV International Forum (GIF)
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- I would like to begin by thanking Yutaka Sagayama for his leadership as the GIF chair over the last 3 years. He has continued to lead the Generation IV program in the tradition of Bill Magwood and Jacques Bouchard.

- I hope that during my term as chair we can also make significant contributions to nuclear energy, especially at a time when many GIF members are facing significant budget pressures and weaker public support.

- I wanted to take a few moments this morning to provide you with an update on the GIF organization and introduce the new GIF leadership team, with whom most of you will already be very familiar.

- As described in the GIF Charter and subsequent Policy Statements, GIF is led by the Policy Group. The Policy Group, or PG, is responsible for the overall framework and policy formation and for interactions with third parties.

- An Experts Group, or EG, advises the PG on R&D strategy, priorities and methodology, and on evaluating research plans for of the six Generation IV Systems, which are coordinated by the System Steering Committees, or SSCs.

- Under each SSC, one more Project Management Boards, or PMBs, oversee the various R&D projects being pursued among participating members.

- The PG, which is comprised of two representatives from each GIF member, currently meets two times a year to review past activities, provide guidance to the EG and SSCs, and determine future program direction. Its next meeting will be in Beijing in May 2013.

- The PG elects a chair and two vice-chairs to lead its activities. At the last PG meeting in San Diego in November 2012, I was elected as GIF Chair for a term of three years. At the same time, the PG confirmed Christophe Behar of France and Yutaka Sagayama of Japan as the two Vice-Chairs.

- I have asked Pascal Anzieu from France to continue as Policy Director and asked Dohee Hahn from the Republic of Korea to serve as Technical Director. Dr. Hahn will chair the Experts Group.
Since 2005, the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency has provided the Technical Secretariat support for GIF. This activity is coordinated by a team led by Thierry Dujardin.

Harold McFarlane, the outgoing Technical Director, will serve as the Chief of Staff of the US secretariat and is ably assisted by Betsy Connell. They will continue to play key roles in the GIF Secretariat team.

I should also note that Tom O’Connor and Jac Goodman are also key players on the US team that supports GIF.

Today, I welcome the opportunity to participate in this year’s GIF-INPRO Interface meeting. As GIF Vice-Chair for the past two years, I have been keenly interested in the engagement between our two organizations and I look forward to working with INPRO as the GIF Chair.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the IAEA and specifically the INPRO team for the excellent arrangements and hospitality for this Interface Meeting and the preceding SFR safety workshop.

GIF is currently conducting a strategic planning exercise and one of the recommendations of this exercise is that we need to strengthen our relationships with other organizations such as IAEA. Our relationship with INPRO and IAEA TWGs is among the most important of our outreach activities and we need to continue to build on this success.

This week’s joint workshop on the SFR safety design criteria is very important to the success of GIF. It is an excellent example of how IAEA/INPRO and GIF can work together in a productive manner. Ultimately, the recommendations from these discussions will need to be promulgated by IAEA into standards if these are to gain traction.

The close cooperation of INPRO with the three GIF methodology working groups (proliferation resistance and physical protection, risk and safety, and economic modeling) has been very productive and should continue.

In the future, GIF will continue to focus its efforts on facilitating advanced reactor R&D cooperation among our members. As part of the GIF vision, I am open to hearing from IAEA about any suggestions on how INPRO and GIF can strengthen our relationship to support mutual objectives.