Summary for Panel Session 4

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The prime consideration must be to avoid Nuclear ‘Disasters’ occurring in the first place. To achieve this in the present situation will require truly Independent National Regulators to approve and license any facilities, operations or commercial activities under their jurisdiction based on

1. a safety case
2. a security case
3. a safeguards case

consistent with the IAEA protocols and additional protocols.

In the absence of International Regulatory bodies it will be essential that this process is open to transparent International Scrutiny and Peer Review.

In discussing the fuel cycle in particular many benefits may accrue from international arrangements such as

1. the number of facilities in need of safeguarding will be minimised
2. there will be safe centralised management of nuclear materials
3. best practice will be more easily shared with newcomers
4. greater international oversight of facilities

To be weighed against

1. the potential for misuse of knowledge
2. a host state may expel international collaborators and break out of NPT having access to essential information
3. the potential for national activities to be developed should the commercial and technical benefits become eroded.

Disposing of used fuel and radioactive waste in a safe, secure and reliable way cannot be underestimated as part of this process but equally the sensitivities cannot be underestimated either. A way to begin this process and gain confidence would be to establish joint R&D studies to explore the technical feasibility, economic attractiveness and socio-political acceptability of such international options. Such R&D partnerships could build trust to foster more integrated policies and even more general collaborative fuel cycle infrastructures.

Industry must be ‘on-board’ in any initiatives. It must be part of the solution not part of the problem. Following 3-Mile Island and Chernobyl an industry wide body WANO (the World Association of Nuclear Operators) was established to promote safe and efficient practices in reactor operation and subject them to Peer Review. However as the recent incidents in Japan have indicated there must be an effective regulatory regime as well and
that WANO should consider at least extending its promotion of best practices to the management of ‘used fuel’ at reactor sites. To move forward the licensing process should include

(1) a security case ..... and there now exists a World Institute for Nuclear Security ... WINS
(2) a non-proliferation case ..... suggesting the creation of a World Association for Nuclear Non-Proliferation .... WANNP

Both of these activities must have major Industry involvement at least at the level of Board members to ensure that these areas gain the attention they deserve.

International Arrangements can offer safeguards and opportunities but responsibility must remain with individual States to develop treaties and provide effective regulation.

In the unfortunate circumstance that another ‘Disaster’ occurs, we have learned how essential and vital it is to have rapid and accurate information. In this situation the international community must be ‘transparent’ and immediately cooperate to make available all local and international information (eg from CTBT/seismic/weather observation stations worldwide) as well as establishing the corresponding and necessary networks empowered to share this information.

In summary to give confidence going forward rigorous national licensing of all facilities and commerce is essential. In the absence of international regulatory bodies it is also essential that national arrangements are subjected to international scrutiny and peer review. Finally in the case of an emergency transparent international communication will be of paramount importance.