

Director Kazuo Sakai Addresses Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health, Nuclear Energy Agency, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (CRPPH/NEA/OECD)

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National Institute of Radiological Sciences

The Committee on Radiation Protection and Public Health (CRPPH) at the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) which is an agency of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held its 69th meeting at the OECD headquarters in Paris, France from May 17 to 19. The meeting was attended by Kazuo Sakai, Director of Research Center for Radiation Protection, National Institute of Radiological Sciences where he reported on the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

The NEA is a specialised agency within the OECD. It was initially established as the European Nuclear Energy Agency (ENEA) in 1958 and changed to its current name in 1972 when Japan became its first non-European member. The OECD/NEA currently has 30 member nations, most of who also belong to the EU. Compared to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which also deals with nuclear issues and is an international agency with a wide membership covering emerging nations contemplating the adoption of nuclear energy as well as developed nations who are current users, a feature of the OECD/NEA is that its membership mainly comprises developed nations who already possess technology for exploiting nuclear energy.

The CRPPH is a standing committee made up of experts from OECD/NEA member nations and its role is to work with other committees in the OECD and NEA as well as with the IAEA and other international agencies on activities including: (1) Providing a forum for information exchange and the passing on of experience relating to radiation protection and public health, (2) Seeking a common understanding and direction regarding the interpretation and implementation of International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) recommendations and other international standards, (3) Undertaking scientific and technical reviews of the latest findings in the field of radiation protection and providing reference material and other advice in areas that require international agreement, (4) Promoting policies and other concepts that lead to more simple and transparent radiation protection practices, (5) Encouraging international collaboration on radiation protection and other problems associated with radiation. Mr. Sakai is a member of the CRPPH's six-person bureau committee which

is responsible for operational policy in conjunction with the secretariat.

The OECD/NEA has been investigating appropriate responses to the recent nuclear accident since it occurred. This work is being done by the CRPPH and its Information System on Occupational Exposure (ISOE) and Working Party on Nuclear Emergency Matters (WPNEM) working parties. One result of this work was the holding of a session on the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant at the latest CRPPH meeting which took place on the opening day and was the first item after the opening session. The report by Mr. Sakai attracted a high level of interest and the committee agreed to exchange further information about the situation, how to deal with it, and other related matters.

The committee includes many key individuals with experience of the response to the Chernobyl nuclear accident and who can be expected to provide advice and other assistance for recovery efforts through the intensive exchange of information.

Details of Mr. Sakai's address to the meeting are available below.

[Report to OECD/NEA/CRPPH](#)