

## Welcome address

### 4<sup>th</sup> GNSSN Steering Committee Meeting 2014

Mr. Dennis Flory

Mr. Paul Woodhouse

Mr. Linqun Guo

Participants from the member states

Representatives of participating Global, Regional and Thematic Networks

and the representatives of IAEA

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to welcome you all here in the opening session of the 4th Meeting of the steering committee of Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network in the.

I would like to express satisfaction over the technical and administrative initiatives of GSSN as per work plan. During the last couple of years, the framework of GNSSN has improved to a great extent. The constituent networks have also grown a lot, both in terms of contents and appearance of the webpage. I would particularly like to appreciate the efforts made by the management of RegNet. It has improved significantly from where it was two years ago. As Mr. Flory has mentioned, a large number of documents have been uploaded and used by the professionals during the last couple of years. IRRS has been the main user of this platform.

The detailed report of the progress made since the last meeting of the Steering Committee will be presented by Mr. Linqun Guo in a short while.

The Agenda of the current meeting is quite promising to focus on a large variety of issues including appraisal of the activities of various networks and forums which are part of the GNSSN. A very interesting presentation on Fukushima and the new structure of regulatory body in Japan is also part of the agenda of this meeting. It is very important to note that Fukushima insights are not only used for the safety assessments of existing and future plants but regulatory effectiveness has also taken an important place in ensuring nuclear safety, indicating a good commitment.

Another area which has gained much more importance after Fukushima is the emergency preparedness and response. It is encouraging that a proper forum has been established in this regard. I would appreciate if this forum is given a proper place in the GNSSN so that the visitors of GNSSN can benefit from the activities of this forum.

From the very beginning of the establishment of GNSSN, we have been striving hard for inclusion of Nuclear Security in the ambit of GNSSN. I am grateful to the NSNS of the IAEA for arranging a presentation on the Nuclear Security Network and am looking forward to include this network in the GNSSN domain.

I would like to acknowledge that GNSSN's contribution for providing a dynamic forum to various international regional and thematic networks for sharing knowledge and enhancing cooperation will result in harmonization and strengthening of global efforts towards safety of nuclear installations and developing a meaningful interface between safety and security. Safety research is needed in every domain of safety assessment and this cannot be a solo flight rather a joint global effort for which significance of GNSSN increases manifold.

The guidance of the Steering Committee during the last couple of years has helped a lot in improving the GNSSN. However I feel that efforts are still required for further advancement. The promotion, visibility and usefulness of GNSSN and its governance are the issues which still require attention. I hope that with your able guidance, these issues will be resolved during the coming years.

In the end, I would appreciate the efforts of each and every entity represented in the GNSSN Steering Committee for their precious input in planning and the IAEA staff for executing the activities considering the needs of all stakeholders.

Thank you for your priceless contribution and continuous support to the GNSSN.