

Foreign Secretary's meeting with IAEA Director General

June 14, 2011

Foreign Secretary Smt. Nirupama Rao met Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Yukiya Amano in Vienna today. They reviewed cooperation between India and the Agency. Recalling his visit to India in January this year DG said he was deeply impressed with India's achievements in peaceful uses of nuclear energy. DG also praised India's excellent nuclear non-proliferation record. FS briefed the DG regarding India's plans for expansion of nuclear energy in the coming decades, as a clean and sustainable energy source, to meet India's developmental needs and contribute to energy security. DG agreed with FS that nuclear energy would continue to be an important energy source for a number of countries.

The DG outlined some nuclear safety issues that have arisen after the nuclear accident at Fukushima Daiichi. A report by an International Fact Finding Mission is expected to be submitted to the Agency. FS said that India welcomes DG's initiative to host a ministerial conference on nuclear safety which will be held in Vienna next week. India has taken a number of measures to review and strengthen nuclear safety at its nuclear power plants. Government was also planning to introduce a bill in the next session of Parliament to establish an independent Nuclear Regulatory Authority of India.

DG spoke of his efforts in promoting role of IAEA in agriculture, industry and health, which was important for developing countries. DG also thanked Government of India for its generous donation of Bhabhatron to Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

FS mentioned that India would like to cooperate with IAEA on the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership being established in India as a follow up to PM's announcement at Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in April 2010.

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Source: Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India