



*Check against delivery*

**Remarks**

**at the occasion of**

**a Symposium on the application and R&D of technologies**

**of decontamination, remediation and restoration**

**of the environment**

**Adriaan van der Meer**

**Executive Director**

**International Science and Technology Center**

**Tokyo**

**3 February 2012**

Dear Mr. Chair, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

## **Introduction**

I thank the organizers of today's symposium for the opportunity given to me to make a couple of opening remarks on behalf of the International Science and Technology Center.

Today's event comes at a crucial time namely eleven months after northeastern Japan was hit by a catastrophe of unprecedented dimension. We fully understand the suffering of the Japanese people to this day. Japan can count on our continued solidarity in assisting to address today's needs based on our know-how and experience.

Almost immediately after the events, ISTC started to consider possible actions that would allow a mitigation of the impact of the disaster to all directly concerned. ISTC realized that the tasks of the

Japanese authorities were enormous and therefore considered that every effort should be made to lend support. Obviously an important factor is that Japan is a longstanding member of ISTC i.e., since the opening of the Center in 1994. This was an extra incentive to make the necessary know-how available.

## **ISTC**

During the 17 years of its existence ISTC has established a wealth of know-how in different scientific areas. During that time Japan and other funding parties provided more than 850 million USD for the financing of more than 2,750 projects in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union. At the same time ISTC has created a network of more 74,000 researchers working together with more than 1000 research institutes. This network allows scientific and technological exchanges on a wide range of subjects worldwide. ISTC with its multilateral approach brings together the best possible expertise.

## **ISTC projects on environmental remediation**

ISTC has carried out substantial work in the area of the decontamination and rehabilitation of nuclear or radioactively contaminated sites. So far, about 130 projects relevant for the situation in Fukushima with a total value of 42 million USD have been completed. Out of this total, 30 projects directly relate to land decontamination and clean up. The allocated funds for these projects is 8,6 million USD.

A review of this work shows that technologies are available to assist in the clean up of the contaminated land around Fukushima. These technologies will be presented at today's symposium.

Our work has covered the following areas:

- Remediation of contaminated land;
- Development of mathematical models concerning radio nuclides;
- Solutions for water pollution and control;
- Decontamination of buildings and equipment;
- Assessment of radiological impact.

The work carried out by ISTC was done especially after the Chernobyl accident and after the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site.

I am grateful for the opportunity to present these results at today's symposium. I am thankful to the organizers but also to the Russian scientists and their authorities for their contribution to today's event. I am aware that your valuable work makes solutions possible in the short term.

### **Support Program**

ISTC has not only carried out a review: the Center has also established a special support program to make the necessary scientific exchanges possible. The aim of the program is to provide support activities to the parties concerned. I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the US Department of Energy for making the implementation of this program possible. I would like to take the opportunity of today's symposium to call upon other parties to contribute to this important and significant work.

## **Closing**

I consider today's symposium as an important step forward to bring solutions to Japan with respect to the situation in and around Fukushima. The extensive research that has been carried out in Russia and in other parts of the former Soviet Union will bring the necessary solutions. From my side, I would like to reconfirm the commitment of ISTC to do all that is possible to lend support. I work under the assumption that this can only be done on a multilateral basis i.e. by pooling together the best possible expertise worldwide and in full cooperation with the national authorities and with other international organizations.

I would like to thank the representatives of MEXT, of the Institute of Applied Energy and of the Nuclear Safety Research Association for their visit to Moscow last year. This visit allowed us a first exchange of views on the important issues at stake. At the same time I realize that this symposium would not be possible without your strenuous efforts.

I thank you for your attention,