

**Introductory Remarks by Victor Korsun,
STCU Deputy Executive Director from the United States,
given at the
Seminars in Tokyo and Fukushima, Japan
“The Experience and Technology of Russia, Ukraine, and Other CIS Countries on
Remediation and Restoration of Environments”**

February 3-4, 2012

- 1. Good morning Honored Members of the Presidium, Honored Guests, distinguished scientists from Japan, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, the United States, and from around the world. Ladies and Gentlemen.**

2. My name is Victor Korsun. I am the Science Technology Center of Ukraine (STCU) Deputy Executive Director from the United States. I am pleased that the **US Department of Energy’s GIPP Program** sponsored our mission here. Today I speak on behalf of the Ukrainian scientists, government and non-government officials that comprise the Ukrainian delegation. Our delegation welcomes this opportunity to meet and share our experiences with you now and in the future.

3. On April 26, 1986 the Ukrainian people along with other countries of the Former Soviet Union, as well as countries both near and far, suffered a great man-made disaster we call the Chernobyl Nuclear Accident. Located near the town of Pripyat, Ukraine, this tragic

accident spread deadly nuclear radiation far and wide. Carried swiftly by the wind, the radiation crossed borders polluting land, rivers, streams, and wells. Many lives were lost, even more were uprooted, and to this day there are those who suffer from the consequences of this momentous accident.

4. On March 11, 2011, almost 25 years later, the Japanese people experienced a great natural calamity, an earthquake, and then a subsequent Tsunami which engulfed the eastern part of Japan and severely damaged the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. Lives were lost, many thousands of people were displaced, property was destroyed and thousands of hectares of land became polluted by radiation.
5. In the years after the Chernobyl Accident, Ukrainian scientists and others studied, researched and wrote about the Accident and its aftermath--the effects of nuclear radiation on land, water, air, crops, animals, and people both near and far away. Today you will hear the results of this research--what it has taught the scientific community, government officials and the people of Ukraine with possible application to the great people of Japan.

6. We can now see that Chernobyl was a warning that had not been sufficiently recognized. The aging nuclear power plants of the world were in need of much greater scrutiny than they were getting. Even after Chernobyl the severity of the problems had not been adequately addressed, and human beings the world over continued and continue to be at great risk. We must recognize that the work at this conference is vital for the future of mankind.

7. At this conference, by our presence, our concern, and our efforts-- we honor the memory of those, both in Ukraine and Japan, who sacrificed, suffered, and even died in order to save the lives of people in their neighborhoods, villages, towns and cities. These people showed us remarkable fortitude and courage, risked their all so that others could survive. They followed one of the greatest of human instincts--the profoundly life-ennobling instinct of protecting the vulnerable and defenseless in times of great danger. It is for man and woman-kind that we are gathered here today. What we share and what we learn from each other is of vital importance to our worldwide communities.

Thank you for your attention.