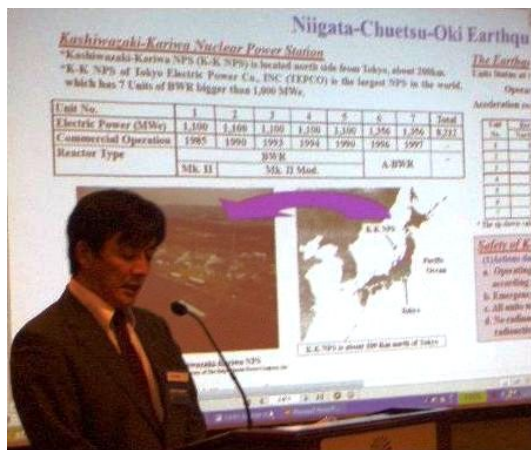


INSAF Holds General Meeting in South Carolina

From November 4 to 6, the 7th general meeting of the International Network for Safety Assurance of Fuel Cycle Industries (INSAF) was held in Columbia, South Carolina (USA). 40 representatives from eight nations (Argentina, Brazil, France, Japan, South Africa, South Korea, Ukraine, and the United States) participated. During the three-day session, views and information were exchanged on a variety of topics, including safety regulations, safety education, safety event and emergency response planning, waste management, and public-acceptance (PA) activities.

INSAF was founded in 2000 after the JCO criticality accident that occurred at Tokai Village (Ibaraki Prefecture) in Japan on September 30, 1999. It is a safety network built upon the shared perception that nuclear safety is extremely important for nuclear fuel-cycle related companies worldwide, and facilitates the sharing of information by those companies about their safety practices and lessons, including operational troubles they experience.

Two companies formally joined INSAF for the first time at the conference: (1) Shaw AREVA MOX Services LLC, which runs the MOX Fuel Fabrication Facility to convert weapons-grade plutonium into nuclear fuel, and (2) Ukraine's Energoatom. Thus, a nuclear fuel safety network was established with the participation of nuclear fuel cycle companies worldwide, including every inhabited continent but Australia (i.e., Asia, Europe, North and South America, and Africa).



The companies representing Japan at the meeting, were Global Nuclear Fuel - Japan, the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd., Mitsubishi Materials Corp., Mitsubishi Nuclear Fuel Co., and Nuclear Fuel Industries, Ltd. Specially invited lecturers from the Japan Nuclear Technology Institute (JANTI) talked about the effects of the July 16 Niigata-Chuetsu Offshore Earthquake on the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa NPS (See Photo).

The next general meeting of INSAF will be held in November 2008 at the Chinese city of Yibin (Sichuan Province).

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