

Closing remark by Ambassador Mitsuru Kitano
at the “Symposium on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Science and Technology:
Towards the 2015 NPT Review Conference and beyond”

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, as Ambassador Vinhas has just said, this is a really rewarding experience. It is rewarding in two ways.

One is that we have had a great audience. Turnout here today was over 100 people coming from over 45 countries. The other is that we learnt a lot. We have benefitted greatly from quite a wide array of lectures and presentations on all aspects of peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

We have arranged this event in a run-up to the NPT Review Conference. We hope today’s discussion has provided useful information as we prepare for the NPT Review Conference.

I want to make a few personal notes; one fundamental point and three observations.

The fundamental point is the role of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology in the context of NPT. What we have discussed today, namely various forms of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, are very useful and beneficial in their own right. But at the same time we are not operating in a vacuum. We are discussing these activities in the context of the IAEA and at the same time in the context of the NPT. In the morning discussion, we were reminded that these activities carry a great importance in the context of article 4 of NPT.

Three observations.

First, I have sensed the strong expectations and needs to the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, as was expressed by so many speakers. Enhancing access to nuclear science and technology for wider recipients is very important. To achieve that, various challenges such as regulatory framework as well as human and financial resources would have to be dealt with. So does the need for raising awareness and education.

Second, I have renewed my recognition about the huge potential of nuclear science and technology. Enhancing wider application of nuclear science and technology should be encouraged. ReNuAL project would provide an important platform for that endeavour. At the same time, strong needs in various areas, ranging from human health and nutrition, to food and agriculture as well as water and the environment were pronounced in today's discussion.

Last but not least, I was reminded of the importance of nuclear safety and radiation protection. Nuclear safety and radiation protection are essential prerequisite for the sustainable development of nuclear science and technology.

In all of those three observations, namely enhancing access by wider beneficiaries, enhancing applications in wider areas, and enhancing safety and radiation protection, international cooperation is critical.

In this context, it is good we have the framework of the NPT. Here, we come back to the point I mentioned earlier as the fundamental point. We have reasons to highlight these areas in the framework of the NPT and we should highlight these activities in the framework of the IAEA. I am very much looking forward to carrying on these discussions in view of the NPT Review Conference. Thank you very much for your attention.