

Chapter 4

Proposal and Discussion on International Cooperation in Case of Emergency

Study on Nuclear Safety Management in East Asian Countries Working Group

June 2013

This chapter should be cited as

Study on Nuclear Safety Management in East Asian Countries Working Group (2013), 'Proposal and Discussion on International Cooperation in Case of Emergency', in Murakami, T. (ed.), *Study on International Cooperation Concerning Nuclear Safety Management in East Asian Countries*. ERIA Research Project Report 2012-28, pp.92-93. Available at: http://www.eria.org/RPR_FY2012_No.28_Chapter_4.pdf

CHAPTER 4

Proposals and Discussions on International Cooperation in Case of Emergency

Most member countries have some kind of a national nuclear regulatory body and have a common awareness that every country should play a role in regional cooperation on nuclear safety, irrespective of the development status of commercial nuclear power generation.

The countries which already have nuclear energy technology – Korea, China, and Japan – will be expected to provide information on reactor and fuel technologies, safety regulatory schemes, security and safeguard issues, and most of all, human resources development plans.

The nuclear accident at Fukushima Daiichi on March 11, 2011, has had a serious impact on ASEAN countries, even though the location of the accident is very far from their homes. Prompt and accurate information sharing on a regional scale would be the top priority in the case of a serious nuclear accident.

Therefore, we would like to propose some ideas for constructing frameworks for regional cooperation concerning nuclear safety and emergency preparedness. The basic principle for international safety cooperation can be summarized as 3 major issues that would make a great contribution to the enhancement of domestic and regional nuclear safety.

- 1) Participation in the initiatives of international organizations, including international conventions, codes of conduct, and other proactive collaborative programs.

Activities to establish the regional nuclear safety regime would include the implementation of international treaties and conventions on nuclear safety, the exchange of information on nuclear safety and regulation, cooperation in R&D on nuclear safety, and various forms of international cooperation and support.

- 2) Contributions to regional nuclear safety, from experienced countries to newcomers

The strategy for supporting newcomers would be implemented by installing safety networks to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of cooperation (such as ANSN, which serves as a good example of regional cooperation). Providing training and education programs for regulatory staffs in ASEAN countries through expert organizations such as the Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security (ISCN) in Japan, or the INSS in Korea, would be highly promising measures.

- 3) Exchange of information, experience, and technologies through the building of cooperative relationships with regulatory organizations worldwide

The establishment of the ASEAN Regional Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response Hub (tentative name) is proposed by the member countries. It would provide expertise and technical assistance on preparedness and response to regional countries in case of radiological or nuclear emergencies, as well as contributing to the establishment of the global nuclear safety regime by leading regional nuclear safety networks.

- 4) Preparation for dealing with cross-border radioactive releases in case of nuclear disasters

Gaseous radioactive materials such as noble gases might rapidly cross borders in case of an accident in nuclear facilities. Early detection and air (or water) monitoring systems, metrological and weather monitoring systems, radioactive plume dispersion modeling capabilities and most of all, decision making networks among all related countries would be highly desirable.

Compensation matters in case of radioactive releases were not discussed in the working group, however, it is one of the most significant issues in the nuclear business. “How should we deal with the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC), one of the international treaties on compensation for nuclear disasters?” would be another theme to be discussed in the area of cooperation on nuclear safety management.