

The 2002 AIT-TECRO JSCCNC Annual Meeting

Joint Plenary Session

9 am, Monday, December 9, 2002

General Remarks

by

Dr. Min-shen Ouyang, Chairman, AEC

AIT Head of Delegation Dr. Burkart, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure for me to address the participants and guests here at the Joint Plenary of the 2002 AIT/TECRO “**J.S.C.C.N.C.**” Annual Meeting. As introduced a few minutes ago, in the TECRO delegation, we have representatives from Taipower, INER, FCMA, and the Headquarters of AEC. Representatives of Taipower will present, later in this plenary, the status of the nuclear power operations in Taiwan, the Lungmen construction project, and Taipower’s radioactive waste management program. There will also be an overview of the nuclear R&D program to be presented by an INER representative. General and specific issues of our nuclear energy programs will be pretty much covered in their presentations. I would like to take this opportunity to just brief you with the Government’s nuclear energy policy and its implementation.

As you may be aware, the “Nuclear-Free Homeland” is now a general consensus among all political parties in Taiwan. The Government is in the process of promoting and implementing a variety of programs toward this goal. The content of the “Nuclear-Free Homeland” is not limited only to the nuclear power issues. It is a multi-dimensional concept that includes “termination of threats by nuclear weapons”, “refusal of nuclear accidents and radiation hazards”, “ensuring safety of nuclear power”, “development of renewable energy sources as alternatives”, and “prospect of nuclear peaceful applications”.

With the establishment of the ‘nuclear-free homeland’ as one major government policy, we cannot avoid but face squarely the nuclear waste management problem, and issues related to safe operations of the three existing nuclear power plants and construction quality of the Lungmen project.

Since the signing of an agreement between our Executive Yuan and Legislative Yuan in February 2001 to push for the establishment of a nuclear-free homeland, the Cabinet has formed a “*Committee for the Development (or Promotion) of a*

Nuclear-Free Homeland (非核家園推動委員會)”, so as to hammer out a comprehensive energy development plan that will provide sufficient energy while taking into account economic and social development and being in line with global trends and international treaties. Under the Committee, there are *eight subcommittees*, led by cabinet members, to take charge of the different aspects of the development, including *education, public outreach, supervision of the Lungmen project, rule making, radwaste management, decommissioning of nuclear power plants, development of clean energy, and adjustment of energy structure*.

AEC is in charge of “*the Subcommittee for Supervising the Lungmen Project*”. There are three major tasks of the subcommittee: to reinforce safety supervision, to enhance supervision of environmental protection practices, and to strengthen supervision on anti-corruption at the Lungmen Station, all of which are being implemented by AEC.

Among other subcommittees, FCMA and the Nuclear Backend Management Department of Taipower are heavily involved in the implementation of the Radwaste Management Subcommittee; whereas both Backend Management Department and INER have an active role in the Decommissioning Subcommittee. As far as “rule making” goes, the Cabinet has pledged to present laws to phase out the existing nuclear power plants, to regulate storage sites for nuclear waste and to promote the use of cleaner sources of energy. To this end, I’d like to bring to your attention that, on November 19, the Legislative Yuan passed the Environmental Basic Law. In Article 23, the Law requires the Government to set plans and take steps to fulfill, in phases, its goal of turning Taiwan into a nuclear-free homeland; meanwhile, special emphasis must be placed on nuclear safety regulation, radiation protection, radwaste management and environmental radiation monitoring, so as to protect the public against radiation hazards.

Parallel to the Committee for the Development of a Nuclear-Free Homeland, there is another Committee, established at the Cabinet level last June, to deal specifically with the relocation, and eventually final disposal, of low-level radioactive waste from the Lan Yu Interim Storage Facility. In this Committee, I am proud to report that AEC under the leadership of Senior Vice Chairman Chen has drawn up a draft law which would soon provide a legal basis for the government to select a proper site for the final repository of our low-level waste.

Aside from the various safety enhancement measures and rule making efforts being implemented, I take pleasure to report that we also have a brand new “National

Nuclear Emergency Response Center” just put to service last September. The Center is located in the same building as AEC’s newly relocated headquarters. A nuclear safety preparedness exercise (or drill) was held in late September to verify its functionality. The Center was proven capable of the emergency handling and response commanding functions in demand.

Certainly, it has not been an easy path from the budding of the ‘Nuclear-Free Homeland” concept to the implementable government policy and programs. As the country’s nuclear safety regulator, AEC will stand firmly by its “watch tower”, to safeguard its people and homeland against nuclear fears and radiation disasters.

This pretty much covered what I’d like to share with you at this meeting. Thank you very much for your attention.