

MEETING WITH DELEGATION FROM JAPAN, LONDON, 11 AUGUST 2009**Secretariat****SUMMARY**

1. Bill Lee met with a delegation from Japan who were visiting European nuclear and radioactive waste management related organisations and facilities. He summarised CoRWM's work and plans and asked the visitors questions about developments in Japan.

DETAIL

2. Present:
 - Prof. Miyako Matsuda, Commissioner, Japan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC),
 - Prof. Ko Matsuda, Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University of Fisheries, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology,
 - Mr. Hisaki Mori, Managing Director, Radioactive Waste Management and Nuclear Facility Decommissioning Technology Centre,
 - Mr. Kenichi Nakajima, Chairman, Re-Tem Corporation,
 - Mr. Akira Nakajima, President, Re-Tem Corporation,
 - Mr. Hiroaki Takahashi, Senior Manager, Re-Tem Corporation,
 - Mr. Andreas W. Koenig, Senior Advisor, Re-Tem. Corporation,
 - Matthew Young, independent interpreter
 - Bill Lee, Deputy Chair, CoRWM
 - Lisa Matta, CoRWM secretariat
 - Adam Scott, CoRWM secretariat

Apologies: Robert Pickard (chair), Simon Harley

3. Bill Lee summarised the Committee's past work and future plans in response to the questions set out in the Annex. In relation to decommissioning and other issues set out in questions 5 and 6 he gave some personal comments. Most of these issues, in particular decommissioning, were mainly or wholly outside CoRWM's terms of reference.
4. He asked about current developments in Japan. These included:
 - There is no equivalent independent radioactive waste advisory body in prospect in Japan. But the visitors were interested to learn from the UK process and were given details of the NEA Advisory Bodies to Government network.
 - JAEA is building underground research facilities at around 300m depth on Hokkaido in northern Japan and at Mizunami in central Japan. One is in crystalline and one in sedimentary rock, which are seen as the most appropriate geologies in Japan. But these facilities are not allowed to conduct work using radioactive material; and promises have been given that neither site will become a geological disposal facility for waste.

- A voluntarist approach is being taken for geological disposal. A town in Kochi Prefecture, central Japan, expressed interest but there was a negative public reaction and the Government is reconsidering its plans. It proposes to approach a number of localities to see whether they would be interested.
 - Japan is in a tectonically active area but some areas, away from major faults, are relatively inactive. This - as well as rock type - is an important consideration in locating geological disposal facilities. Facilities would be likely to be located at several hundred metres as this generally reduces the risk of disturbance from earthquake activity.
5. The delegation was also visiting Germany. Bill Lee asked about developments there. These included:
- There is an active geological-disposal research facility at Asse; but within 20 years of its construction it has encountered severe problems of water intrusion and it will not last for several centuries as originally planned. The facility at Konrad is due for commissioning in 2010.
 - Gorleben, near Asse and with similar geology, is a potential geological disposal facility but the Government proposes to use it as a research facility only and to site a disposal facility elsewhere. It has suggested Southern Germany on geological grounds but there is strong opposition from elected representatives.
6. A copy of the delegation's programme (which included a visit to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) is held by the secretariat.

ANNEX*Questions to CoRWM / August 11, 2009*

Lecture and exchanging views on the premise of the questions listed below would be very much appreciated. (in the order of lecture and exchanging views please)

Also it would be appreciated that you allow us to take back home any printed materials used for your lecture.

1. CoRWM

- (1) Foundation and history (including budgeting)
- (2) Activities
- (3) Committee members and structure of organization
- (4) Experiences and difficulties with consensus building among public (public discussion etc.)

2. Recommendation made in 2006 to the government

- (1) Summary of the recommendation
- (2) Grounds and reasons of the judgment for underground repository

3. Defra's Surveys in June 2008

- (1) Outline of selecting final disposal site (including the role of CoRWM)
- (2) Current status (including the background of Copeland, Allerdale and Cumbria County, stand as candidates)
- (3) Communication with those candidates (consensus building) and methods
- (4) Real intention of " the right of withdrawal from candidacy during the selection period"
(how was this clause included in the documents?)

4. "Interim Storage" reported to the government in March 2009

- (1) Summary of the report
- (2) Contents of the public and stakeholder engagement

5. Policy toward nuclear power plant decommissioning

- (1) Current laws and regulations (including operation status of those laws)
- (2) Management system (including traceability, operation status)
- (3) Situation of host market and public opinion for reuse and recycling

6. Questions to Dr. W. Lee relating to his expertise

- (1) Highly radioactive waste (waste liquid)
 1. treatment plan of high level radioactive waste
 2. any plan for direct disposal of spent fuel within your country
 3. any technology of extracting precious metal out of high level radioactive waste
- (2) treatment, conditioning and disposal of graphite waste held in storage