

Session 2.5

Supporting Safe Operation of Nuclear Power Plants: Case of Belarus

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Development Problem

- For an embarking country the introduction of nuclear power is a real challenge
- Development and implementation of a nuclear power programme requires thorough planning, preparations and coordination
- The overarching goal is construction of a safe, reliable and economically efficient NPP
- Development of human resources is one of the most important tasks



Scope/nature of IAEA support

- It is important to learn from the IAEA (international hub of nuclear knowledge) and from experience of other countries
- IAEA Technical Cooperation (TC) is a proven and well-tuned tool for human capacity building
- National TC projects (scientific visits, fellowships, expert missions)
- Regional projects - cooperation mechanism to learn from advanced countries



Achievements

- Today Belarus is one of the most advanced “newcomer” countries
- The IAEA was involved from the very early stage (since 2007) and plays an important role in the smooth implementation of the national nuclear power programme
- Two lines of support from the IAEA TC (series of national projects): one for strengthening the regulatory body (safety first!) and one for developing nuclear power infrastructure and human resources (reliability and efficiency of NPP)
- Work done in Belarus for managing the rapid growth of regulatory body and operating organization is internationally recognized as a good practice
- Implementation of the national nuclear power programme is in line with the IAEA “Milestone Approach”



The Way Forward

- IAEA TC helps the embarking country to be adequately prepared for the next steps in implementation of the nuclear power programme, thus contributing to its overall success
- The next major step is commissioning of the Belarusian NPP in 2019. The main emphasis for the IAEA Technical Cooperation is on arriving to this milestone with adequately developed nuclear power infrastructure and staff competences
- Future IAEA TC projects - a tool for implementing recommendations made by the IAEA review and assessment missions
- IAEA support must be carefully planned and well-timed. Challenge – the need to plan activities 2-3 years in advance. Solution which IAEA TC provides – flexibility.

