



CHAPTER -10

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION



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India is signatory to several international conventions related to nuclear safety and security such as Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS), Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its amendment 2005, Convention on Assistance in the case of Nuclear Damage and Radiological Emergency, Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident etc. India is also committed to implement the provisions of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Code of Conduct on 'Safety of Research Reactors' and Code of Conduct on the 'Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources'. AERB is obliged to fulfil the responsibilities assigned to it under these instruments. AERB actively participates and contributes in several multi-lateral international activities organized by IAEA and Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA).

AERB has bilateral co-operation arrangements with the regulatory bodies of France, Russia, Ukraine, United States of America, Finland, Canada, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Uzbekistan and Slovak Republic. Some of the important activities carried out under the multilateral and bilateral international arrangement during the year are as follows:

10.0 Strengthening Nuclear Safety and Security

10.0.1 Joint 8th and 9th Review Meeting of the Convention on Nuclear Safety

The Government of India ratified the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) on March 31, 2005. The objective of this Convention is to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide and to establish and maintain effective defenses in nuclear installations against potential



Indian Delegates at Joint 8th & 9th Review Meeting of CNS

radiological hazards. CNS review Meetings are held every three years and provides opportunity to review the National Reports of all Contracting Parties.

Indian delegation led by Chairman AERB, with experts from AERB, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and the India's Permanent Mission in Vienna, participated in Joint 8th and 9th Review Meeting (RM) of the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) at IAEA, Vienna, Austria, during March 20-31, 2023.

The presentation and peer review of the National Report of India was held on March 21, 2023. The



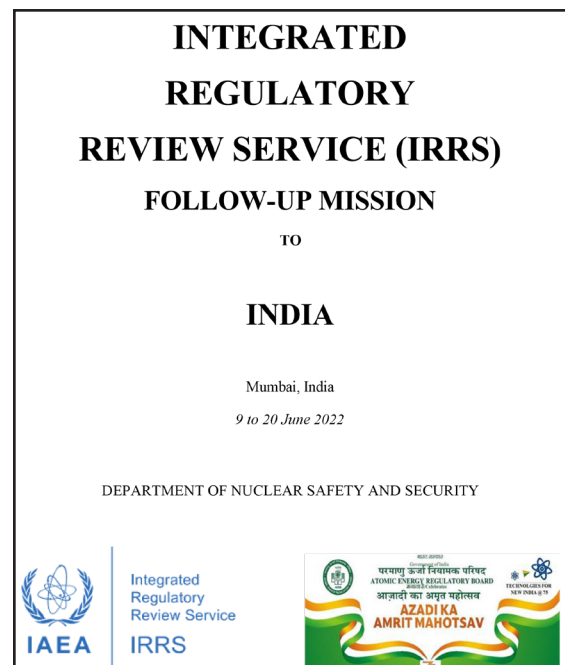
Shri Dinesh Kumar Shukla, Chairman, AERB addressing during CNS Meeting

presentation of India highlighted noteworthy practices in India's nuclear programme, response to challenges and suggestions identified in the previous RMs and areas of good performance in India's safety & regulatory framework. India was commended for seven areas of good performance. No challenges were identified for India in the Joint 8th and 9th RM of CNS. Members of Indian delegation also attended the plenary sessions, Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) discussions and presentations of other countries. The review process of CNS provides a forum to gauge the safety practices and regulations in India with respect to the international benchmarks and best practices. The experience of Joint 8th and 9th RM of CNS indicates that India's safety and regulatory practices are at par with the international benchmarks and best practices. Shri S B Chafle, Executive Director, AERB chaired the country group-5 review meetings during CNS.

10.0.2 Report of IRRS Follow-Up Mission made Public

The Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) follow-up mission to India with extended scope was conducted during June 9-20, 2022. The final

IRRS report is made public and is now available on AERB website (<https://www.aerb.gov.in/storage/uploads/News/newscBUFs.pdf>)



10.1 Bilateral Co-operation

10.1.1 Bilateral Arrangement with Slovak Republic

AERB signed a MoU with Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (UJDSR) on



Shri Dinesh Kumar Shukla, Chairman, AERB signing MoU with Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (UJDSR)

September 25, 2023 for the exchange of technical information and co-operation in the field of regulation of safe use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The MoU will remain in effect for a period of five years.

10.1.2 Bilateral Meeting with United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

A bilateral meeting was held with United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) at AERB, Mumbai during February 13-15, 2023. The meeting was arranged in hybrid mode. Some of the important issues discussed during the meeting were emergency preparedness and response, new reactor technologies, industrial radiography practice, regulatory control during transport of radioactive material and management of disused sealed sources.



AERB Officials with USNRC Delegates

10.1.3 Participation in Workshop on 'Long Term Operation Reviews'

AERB delegation participated in a workshop on 'Long Term Operation Reviews' hosted by USNRC during July 24-28, 2023. The workshop was also attended by delegates of France, Japan, Republic of Korea and Spain. Some of the important topics discussed during the workshop were Ageing

Management Review, Ageing Management Program and Time Limited Ageing Analysis.

10.1.4 Meeting with ASN

AERB has a bilateral co-operation arrangement with ASN, the Nuclear Safety Authority of France. A Bilateral meeting between AERB and ASN was held in virtual mode on January 13, 2023 focusing on enhancing the bilateral relations. The probable areas for future collaboration were discussed during the meeting.

10.1.5 Visit of Bangladesh Delegation to AERB

A delegation from Bangladesh visited Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) on November 21, 2023 and held discussion with AERB officials as part of the 4th Joint Committee Meeting between India and Bangladesh. During the discussion both the parties affirmed to carry forward the technical co-operation between AERB and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA) under the bilateral arrangement. The delegates also visited Nuclear and Radiological Emergency Monitoring Centre (NREMC) at AERB.



AERB Officials interacting with Delegates from Bangladesh at NREMC

10.1.6 IAEA General Conference

Chairman, AERB, as part of Indian delegation, attended the 67th IAEA General Conference held during September 25 - 29, 2023 at Vienna, Austria. He also attended the Senior Safety and Security Regulator's meet and side-line meetings

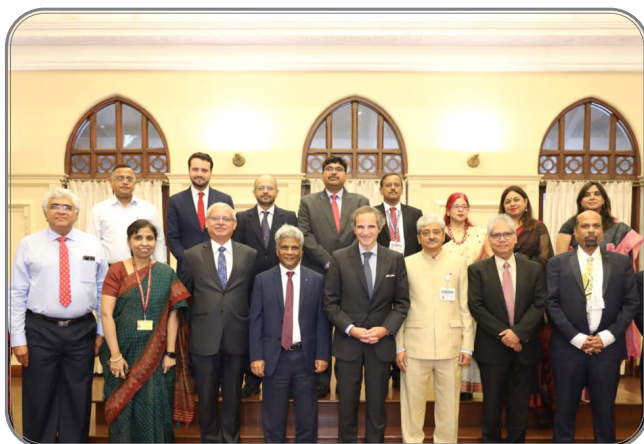


Glimpses of IAEA General Conference

with delegation from regulatory bodies of Slovak Republic, VietNam and Argentina arranged during the General Conference.

10.1.7 Visit of Director General, IAEA

IAEA Director General, Rafael Mariano Grossi along with his delegates visited India from 23-26 October, 2023. This visit marked Mr. Grossi's first trip to India as the Director General of the IAEA. During the visit, the delegates visited the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and met Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary DAE, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Chairman, AERB, Mr Dinesh Kumar Shukla along with other senior officials of the DAE.



Glimpses of the Visit of Director General, IAEA