Communication a year after Fukushima

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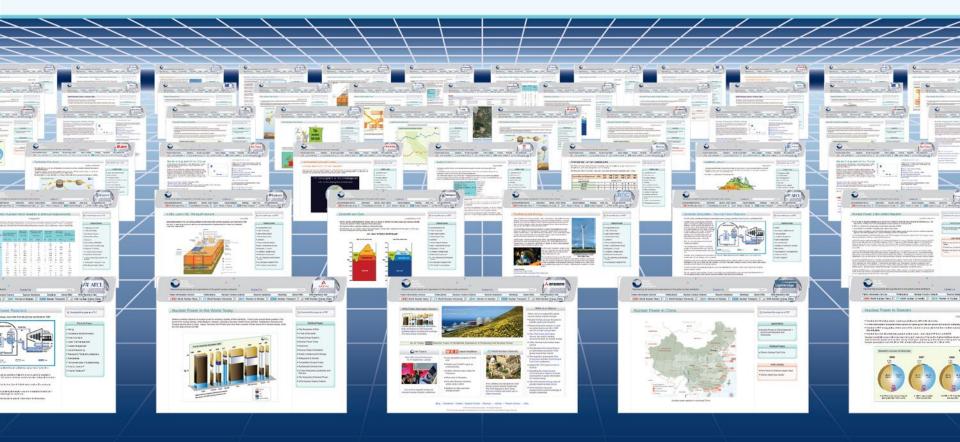
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IAEA reviews Japan's nuclear resta

31 January 2012

A team of international nuclear safety experts has reviewed procedure to confirm the safety of its nuclear plants as dire conditions grip the country's power industry.

A mission to Japan lasting from 23 to 31 January saw a team (experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as member states spend time with Japan's nuclear safety regula which is conducting a two-stage assessment process to ensu plants have adequate protection against extreme external ev

While NISA continues its work to review the preliminary asses supported by the Nuclear Safety Commission and the Japane Energy Safety Organization, reactors are still closing one by (mandatory safety inspections. Currently only three are in ope a potential operating fleet of 44, not counting the ten Fukush

The preliminary report from the IAEA team to the Japanese g said NISA and nuclear operators had "promptly addressed" (safety measures after the accident at Fukushima Daiichi. It c range of recommendations to NISA to ensure thorough and improvements in safety are made.





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Having spent five years combining its nuclear power, engineering and research enterprises into the single entity of Rosatom, the Russian government now sees privatisation of the firm as part of a plan for industrial modernisation

Rosatom is just one of several vertically integrated state holding companies Russia established to "discourage the decline of the more intellectual sectors of national industry" in the post-Soviet era, wrote Vladimir Putin in the Vedomosti newspaper on 30 January

Currently in the role of prime minister, Putin served the maximum two terms as president from 2000 to 2008 and is now campaigning to return to that position in March 2012. He used the lengthy article to set out a range of government targets for Russia to develop its infrastructure, innovation and private enterprise while curbing corruption and improving the legal and investment environment for business. Vladimir Putin



Speaking of sectors such as aerospace, shipbuilding and nuclear energi-Putin wrote: "We had to consolidate those assets which were officially government-owned but managed disjointedly, and which had lost all links with their respective research and design centres.'

Government efforts "were focused on restoring Russia's ability to compete in those sectors which involved only a few players on the global market," Putin wrote, emphasising that the "expansion of state capitalism" only occured because there was no private initiative in the sectors. He stressed the scale of state action had no bearing on "our



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Privatisation of Russian state nuclear gia Approval for first nuclear new build in America

09 February 2012

American safety regulators gave the go-ahead today for the construction of two new nuclear power reactors.

The vote by the five-member commission brought to an end a regulatory process lasting almost four years that confirmed the safety of building two Westinghouse AP1000 reactors at the Vogtle site in Georgia. It is the first combined construction and operating licence issued by the US



Workers stand in the excavated and waterproofed space for Vogtle 3's reactor building

The review work of the NRC staff was celebrated by the commissioners in a confirmatory hearing today. Four commissioners voted to grant the licence, while chairman Gregory Jazcko abstained. He had wanted the licence issued on condition that Southern Company implement NRC recommendations developed in response to the Fukushima accident in Japan last year and said he "could not support issuing this licence as if Fukushima had not happened." The other commissioners spoke to respectfully disagree with Jazcko. Kristine Svinicki said: "There is no amnesia individually or collectively regarding the events of 11 March 2011 and the ensuing accident at Fukushima." She added that NRC staf

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1

The cause of the accident was an exceptional natural event which tragically exposed an underestimation of safety provisions at the Fukushima site



2

Stress tests on nuclear facilities around the world have been systematically identifying and addressing any safety deficiencies in case of extreme events.



3

Almost 20,000 people died as a direct result of the earthquake and tsunami. There have been no deaths from the Fukushima accident and none are likely in the future



4

Social and economic consequences connected with the evacuations around the site are of major importance. Nevertheless, exaggerated fears about radiation should not add to hardship by unnecessarily preventing people from returning home to resume their normal lives



5

The world energy situation remains unchanged. Huge quantities of clean, reliable and affordable electricity will be needed to meet future demand. Nuclear power offers a proven, technically mature solution on each of these criteria



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