

Opening Remarks by
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Director of Singapore Nuclear Research and Safety Initiative

At 4th Virtual Annual Meeting of ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research
2nd – 4th June, 2021, Singapore

Prof Thawatchai, fellow researchers and colleagues, Good Morning.

On the behalf of Singapore, I warmly welcome all of you to the fourth Annual Meeting of the ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research. Despite the cloud of Covid-19 pandemic hanging over whole ASEAN region, I am very heartened to see so many of you at this Meeting.

Singapore and Thailand were among the first countries to detect cases of Covid-19 in the early months of 2020. As a result, we made a joint decision to postpone the 4th Annual Meeting scheduled to be held physically in Singapore last year, thinking that the situation would improve soon. Unknown to us, it would take us more than a year before we have the chance to bring everyone together to this meeting.

Climate change, growing energy needs, energy security as well as improvements in nuclear technologies and safety attract many countries to seriously consider nuclear power as an option in their countries' energy mix. It is well understood that safety is the key to starting any civilian nuclear energy programme. Regional cooperation is also very important even before the start of such programme in any country for the safety of all countries in the region. It was in this spirit that the network was conceived five years ago in Hanoi and born a year later in 2017 when we held the kickoff meeting in Bangkok.

The network provides an opportunity for researchers and experts in different areas of nuclear power safety to know one another. Through meaningful collaboration, we can learn from one another, develop our capabilities together and build strong relationship between individuals and countries.

Thailand has been the main driver of this network since its formation. We appreciate Thailand's strong and endless effort to keep the Network going. Singapore has played a supporting role from the very beginning and participated actively in the Benchmark problem which has come to a fruitful conclusion. Taking over the role of the lead country, Singapore will put even more resources to develop it further. One of our targets is to bring onboard all member states in ASEAN to this network and thus we are indeed very glad that representatives from Cambodia and Indonesia are with us this year. Of course, we are also extremely happy to meet again colleagues from Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam at this Meeting.

With this, let me once again welcome all of you to the 4th ASEAN NPSR Annual Meeting and wish all a fruitful and rewarding time over the next three mornings.

Thank you!