

Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

Approach to the Involvement of External Entities in GNEP Activities White Paper from the May 14-15, 2008 Steering Group Meeting

Introduction

The stated GNEP goal is to facilitate cooperation among the GNEP Partners in pursuing the expansion of clean, sustainable, nuclear energy worldwide in a safe and secure manner, while at the same time reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation. To achieve this goal it will be essential for the GNEP Steering Group and its Working Groups to engage external entities. This interaction will help GNEP tap into a broader set of experiences and resources. This interaction will also promote communication between GNEP and external entities, will promote achievement of GNEP goals, objectives, priorities and specific activities that will, or could be, undertaken with respect to the expansion of nuclear power in accordance with the GNEP Statement of Principles and Steering Group Action Plan.

External Entities

External entities are those non governmental entities that are subject to the jurisdiction of any GNEP Partner States and interact with the GNEP Partner States as a part of Steering Group or Working Group activities. External entities fall into three general categories: (1) the commercial sector comprised of vendors, suppliers, and utilities (private, state owned, quasi-governmental, etc.), industrial associations, (2) the educational sector which includes universities, technical institutes, and other training organizations, and (3) regulatory organizations.

Principles

GNEP interactions with external entities will proceed according to the following principles:

- Working Group consensus will be expected in order to pursue proposed interactions with external entities in support of specific Working Group initiatives; proposed interactions will be reviewed on a case by case basis and will not require Steering Group approval. Interactions with external entities by the Steering Group itself would operate in accordance with the same principle of consensus.
- External interactions will be conducted with a goal of fairness and transparency.
- The composition of Partner State delegations is a matter determined by the Partner government. As such, these delegations may include representatives from the States' external entities, under the responsibility of the Partner government.
- Interactions with External Entities will be conducted through the contact points assigned by the relevant Partner Government.
- The Steering Group or Working Groups should conduct the interactions through the contact points assigned by the relevant Partner Government.
- For interactions with multinational non-governmental organizations with which a Working Group may decide to engage, that are not subject to jurisdiction of any Partner States, the Chair of the Working Group may serve as the contact point. In addition to

Working Group consensus, Steering Group approval on a case by case basis is required for these interactions with organizations other than the permanent observers.

Mechanisms

Multiple mechanisms could be used for interactions with External Entities, as appropriate, and with a Working Group or Steering Group consensus. Mechanisms that might be employed include but are not limited to:

- Workshops – inviting appropriate external entities to topical workshops. These types of interaction span GNEP areas of interest, for example:
 - The engagement of commercial entities regarding technical options and training opportunities;
 - Meeting with educational and the academic organizations to gain mutual understandings of challenges and opportunities in human resource development through promotion of educational programs, internships and specialized training.
- GNEP Resource Library – including resources from external entities in the Resource Library.
- Bilateral or multilateral assessments, training support, opportunities for personnel exchanges and internships present opportunities for external interaction.
- Other mechanisms may be identified as GNEP cooperation with external entities matures and will be utilized in accordance with the principles described above.

Summary

Effective execution of some GNEP activities will require engaging external entities which will play important role in implementing specific elements of a clean, sustainable, safe and secure nuclear energy expansion while reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation. Principles and mechanisms for effective interaction with external entities while building confidence in the appropriateness and integrity of the GNEP engagement processes have been developed. The concurrence of the Steering Group with this approach is requested.