

Shunishi Tanaka
Chairman
Nuclear Regulation Authority
1-9-9, Roppongi, Minato-ku
Tokyo 106-8450
Japan

Boulogne-Billancourt, 12 July 2017

Dear Chairman Tanaka,

The aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi accident presented Japan with many very difficult challenges. Many of these challenges will require years and even decades of hard work to resolve.

Among the hard lessons identified by analysis of the accident in Japan and internationally, was the conclusion that the regulator at the time of the accident was far too much a part of the “nuclear village” and not institutionally equipped to provide effective safety oversight to Japan’s nuclear industry. The public lost confidence in the regulator – a condition that is extremely difficult to remediate.

The Government of Japan moved quickly and effectively to establish a new regulator, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA), drawing from successful models in other countries. But, obviously, creating the NRA would only be the beginning of a long journey. The hardest work lay ahead: to rebuild public trust in the national nuclear regulator; to establish new safety standards to be applied to Japanese nuclear facilities before they could restart operations; and to build an organisation and a staff capable of fulfilling the nuclear safety mission.

The progress made by NRA in all these areas over the last five years has been extraordinary and heartening. It is very clear that your personal and determined leadership has been indispensable in securing the gains achieved. In the last five years, you led the NRA across the uncharted and often contentious waters of the post-3/11 environment with grace, intelligence, and wisdom.

We salute you for your successful and historic tenure as the first Chairman of the NRA and wish you the very best for a long and fruitful future.



Marta Žiaková
Chair of the Steering Committee on Nuclear Energy and
Chairperson, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak
Republic



William D. Magwood, IV
Director-General, Nuclear Energy Agency



Victor McCree
Chair of the Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities and
Executive Director of Operations, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission



Jean-Christophe Niel
Chair of the Committee on the Safety of Nuclear Installations
and
Director General, l’Institut de radioprotection et de sûreté
nucléaire