



SUMMARY OF PANEL DISCUSSION

Panelists:

- Chairman : Dr. Nahrul Khair b. Alang Md. Rashid (MNS)
- Members : Raymond Durante (ANS)
M. Hagiwara, Japan
M. Gupta, Canada
R. Nitschke
A. Basfar, Saudi Arabia
Mohamad Osman, Malaysia

Discussion

The Chairman outlined the working of this session is to allow each panelist to express their views of the issues and challenges for nuclear science and technology in the new era, following that is a discussion between the panelists and the participants, the chairman then summarized the session.

Dr. Basfar outlined the non-power applications of nuclear science and technology in the Middle-East region. He also touched up the subject of commercialisation of the technology including food irradiation.

Dr. Gupta stressed the need for better and effective public acceptance efforts from the community. On the strategy he also stressed the importance of presenting the public and balanced information.

Mr. Durante further stressed the importance of public acceptance and communicating the potential of nuclear science of technology to end users.

Mr. Hagiwara, also on public acceptance stressed the importance of communication with the public and the importance of honesty and forthrightness in dealing with nuclear science and technology news. On his remark on which comes first, NPP or PAP, he mentioned that Japan is different in that it receives the bomb first, then only introduces NPP - hence the public may easily be persuaded.

Robert Nitschke, mentioned about the importance of learning from first mistakes.

Mohamad Osman mentioned about the application of nuclear science and technology in agriculture and education. He mentioned the usefulness of nuclear science and technology in generating new species for improved yield, and that the improvement is in the form of enhance qualitative traits instead of increased yield.

In the interaction part of the session, Dr. Cornet (France) concerned with the importance of economic land commercial consideration in the introduction and adoption of new technologies. Dr. Amrollahi (Islamic Republic of Iran) stressed the importance of financial aspect be taken into account. Prof Chong (USM, Malaysia) raised the point of discussing international relation and proliferation as a factor that need to be settled for taking nuclear science and technology into the next century.

In summarizing the discussion, the chairman noted that the main item raised is still public acceptance. Other items being safety, financial, and the economics of the technology. On public acceptance the chairman commented that the weight of the 'displeasure' of the public is not uniform across the spectrum of applications of nuclear science and technology thus the nuclear science and technology should capitalise on the areas in which the public has little apprehension. Further, since public acceptance is a crucial factor, then it must be strengthened. One of the means by which this could be achieved is by exploiting the non-power applications of the technology in various other sectors.