

June 15, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Meserve  
Commissioner Dicus  
Commissioner Diaz  
Commissioner McGaffigan  
Commissioner Merrifield

FROM: Janice Dunn Lee, Director **/RA/**  
Office of international Programs

SUBJECT: NRC VISIT OF TOMOHIRO TANIGUCHI, NEWLY APPOINTED IAEA  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY, JUNE 21,  
2001

Mr. Tomohiro Taniguchi was appointed the next Deputy Director General of the IAEA Department of Nuclear Safety during the June 11- 14, 2001 Board of Governors meeting in Vienna. He will begin his duties in late Summer or the Fall of this year. He will be in Washington D.C. during the week of June 17 through 24 for a conference on global environment issues. He has requested courtesy visits with NRC Commissioners and senior officials for June 21, 2001. The schedule of these appointments follows:

June 21, 2001 Meeting Schedule for Tomohiro Taniguchi

9:00 to 9:30	EDO William Travers
9:30 to 10:00	Commissioner Merrifield
	Roy Zimmerman, RES
10:00 to 10:30	Martin Virgilio, NMSS
10:30 to 11:00	Chairman Meserve
11:00 to 11:30	Commissioner Diaz
11:30 to 12:00	Commissioner McGaffigan
12:00	Chairman-hosted Luncheon

Attached are a biography of Mr. Taniguchi, an extended description of his professional career, and discussion topics.

If there are additional questions concerning the visit of Mr. Taniguchi, please contact Charles Serpan (415-2341) of my staff.

Attachments: 1. Biographical Information  
2. Discussion Topics

cc: SECY  
OGC  
EDO  
NMSS  
RES

CONTACT: C. Serpan, OIP  
415-2341

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## **Biography of Mr. Tomohiro Taniguchi**

Tomohiro Taniguchi brings together wealth of expertise in nuclear energy, international experience, and administrative skill, all of which make him a strong candidate for a senior assignment at the IAEA. His achievements as policy maker and regulator attest to his leadership quality, which is an essential element of a global consensus builder. He has more than 15 years experience in nuclear safety policy and administration including senior-level management in the Japanese Government and research institutions.

Mr. Taniguchi joined the Ministry of International Trade and Industry in 1968, immediately after his graduation from the University of Tokyo, where he majored in nuclear engineering. During thirty years of distinguished career at MITI, primarily at the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy (ANRE), he consistently contributed to establishment and development of regulatory regime that is conducive to enhanced efficiency and safety in the area of nuclear energy utilization. Serving at division director level in the 1980s, he initiated the process of structural improvement of regulatory system, reforming the system to render it more efficient, effective, responsive to the risk involved, and consistent with international nuclear energy development. His work at MITI continued in the 1990s, along the track, he laid in the 1980s. As the Deputy Director General in charge of nuclear policy, he was the Japanese Government's chief administrative officer on all aspects of commercial use of nuclear energy, including, safety, and regulation. He not only continued to pursue the course of systemic structural reform of the regulatory system, but also took on a larger task of meeting the challenges presented by a changing environment surrounding the nuclear power industry. In the process of overall restructuring of the industry, it was his responsibility to forge a positive link between competitiveness and safety by renewed policy emphasis on efficiency, reliability, openness, and transparency. Sociopolitical complexity of the nuclear power industry in Japan further honed his administrative skill as he sought a sustainable development of the symbiotic relationship between industry and local community. He was also an instrumental part of Japan's effort to establish close cooperative relationships in the nuclear energy sector with neighboring countries of Asia, such as China and the Republic of Korea. He was consistently involved in international efforts to making rules and creating order in what can only be described as a transitory era for the nuclear industry worldwide.

In the course of his career at MITI, he built up twelve years of resident overseas working experience in international organizations and research institutions. This includes senior-level management and advanced research activities in the areas of energy, technology, and industry. Three separate assignments in wide ranging areas at the Organization for Economic Cooperation Aid Development, spanning from the mid 1970s to the middle 1990s, demonstrate his exceptional aptitude to serve in international organizations. His assignment as the Deputy Director General for Trade Negotiation at MITI also proves the high appreciation within the Japanese Government of his command of international affairs and negotiation skill. These and other international responsibilities, he has so far assumed, have helped to widen his perspective in policy formulation and decision-making. He is keenly aware, for example, of indirect, but important, interrelation between enhanced openness and transparency in the area of nuclear safety and effectiveness of the safeguards measures. He believes that while the role

of IAEA in these two areas are not altogether parallel with each other, IAEA's effort in the former, albeit standard setting and advisory in nature, could have a positive influence on its works in the latter.

He currently serves as the Executive Director of the Nuclear Power Engineering Corporation (NUPEC), whose mission is to support MITI and the nuclear industry in the areas of safety and technology. The corporation, with over 300 staff, promotes effectiveness, efficiency, and public acceptance in the operation of commercial nuclear facilities with particular emphasis on safety, technology, and managerial reform. In recognition of his expertise and experience in nuclear safety issues, he has recently been appointed to the newly created Nuclear Safety Subcommittee of the Minister's Advisory Council for Comprehensive Energy Policy. With experience as a researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the early 1970s and also as a visiting researcher at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in the middle 1990s, he has maintained academic interest and involvement as well. He has been giving lectures, on regular basis, as a Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo, his alma mater, since 1998.

**Discussion Topics for the visit of Mr. Tomohiro Taniguchi  
June 21, 2001**

## **Background**

Mr. Taniguchi was designated by IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei, and accepted by the heads of delegations during the June 2001 Board of Governors meeting as the next Deputy Director General for the Department of Nuclear Safety, beginning in the summer of 2001. Mr. Taniguchi replaces Zygmund Domaratzki of Canada who completes his five-year term as the first DDG for Nuclear Safety, following dissolution of the former Nuclear Power Department into the Nuclear Safety and Nuclear Energy Departments. The NS Department consists of two divisions, Nuclear Installation Safety, having a budget of about \$7M, and Radiation and Waste Safety, with a budget of about \$10.5M; the department has a combined staff of about 150.

- The Department of Nuclear Safety has made important strides in the past few years for upgrading safety and safety culture for operating reactors and regulatory bodies. Recent emphasis, however, is pointing toward research reactors and fuel cycle facilities. What are your priorities, and how will you balance the continuing needs of civil power reactors versus research reactors and fuel cycle facilities?
- The Safety Services activities of OSARTs (Operational Safety Assessment Review Team) and IRRTs (International Regulatory Review Team) have had a significant impact on bringing awareness of deficiencies in operations and safety culture. The activity has recently become greatly undermanned, and missions are being delayed or canceled. What could you do to improve the viability of these important services?
- The Division of Nuclear Installation Safety is dependent upon a significantly disproportionate number of Cost Free Experts for its Regular Budget activities. Do you have plans to rectify this problem? The current management has had limited success thus far, and we hope you will continue to pursue this issue.
- There has been a great burst of activity this year on issues of clearance and exemption for radiological protection. We hope that it will result in practical criteria for authorities in all countries. We plan to participate fully and hope that you will support the activity.
- We are aware that the Nuclear Safety Department is working to effect revision of the ST-R-1 Transport Regulations, and bring them into line with all international transport regimes. As we continue to work with the Nuclear Safety Department in the effort to revise and update ST-R-1 for Transport of Radioactive Materials, we trust that this effort as well as all other standards development efforts will be done with as much transparency as possible.
- We note that revision of the Basic Safety Standards is being contemplated just as the Joint Convention on Waste enters into force. Are you aware of any shortcomings of the BSS and does the onset of the Joint Convention on Waste offer opportunities or problems?
- What is your perspective on the relative roles of the IAEA and the OECD/NEA in the nuclear waste arena?

## VISIT OF MR. TOMOHIRO TANIGUCHI

### JUNE 21, 2001

- 9:30 a.m. Meeting with Roy Zimmerman, RES
- 10:00 a.m. Meeting with Martin Virgilio, NMSS
- 10:30 a.m. Meet with Chairman Meserve
- 11:00 a.m. Meet with Commissioner Diaz
- 11:30 a.m. Meet with Commissioner McGaffigan
- 12:00 noon Chairman-hosted luncheon

Note: Commissioners Dicus and Merrifield on travel  
Collins and Thadani also on travel