

The Nuclear Security Symposium
23 (Fri) March 2012

Session 3: Interface between Nuclear Security and Safety
Summary Statement by Michael Weber

The importance of maintaining balance among safety, security, and safeguards has been recognized internationally in the 2010 report by the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) International Nuclear Safety Group with assistance of IAEA's Advisory Group on Nuclear Security. Safety, security, and safeguards obligations reinforce each other in accomplishing a common purpose – protection of people, society, and the environment. Measurable steps must be taken to successfully manage the safety-security interface. These include establishing the necessary legislative and regulatory infrastructure, along with close cooperation between operators and national authorities. A clear definition of responsibilities for safety, security, and safeguards is also necessary. Strategies for ensuring safety and security need to be flexible enough to accommodate changes in threat and risk, yet specific enough to assure their effectiveness. These strategies also need to guard against catastrophic “cliff edge” effects. The lessons learned from the nuclear emergency at Fukushima-Daiichi suggest that a comparable outcome could have been initiated by a hostile attack. The world nuclear community needs to work with partner communities such as law enforcement and defense to accomplish nuclear safety, security, and safeguards.