

INCOMING PNC PRESIDENT REMARKS
PBNC 14 OPENING PLENARY
P.J. FEHRENBACH

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK PROFESSOR MAMORU AKIYAMA AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE THOUGHTFUL AND ACTIVE LEADERSHIP HE HAS PROVIDED TO THE PACIFIC NUCLEAR COUNCIL OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. IT IS AN HONOUR TO BE FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT TWO YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF PNC, BUT ALSO TO THE NEXT FOUR DAYS OF THIS PBNC CONFERENCE. IT IS AN EXCITING PROGRAM WITH A TIMELY THEME - NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR A NEW ERA - AN ERA IN WHICH SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT WILL RECOGNIZE AGAIN THE BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR POWER AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF A DIVERSIFIED POWER SUPPLY.

THIS IS A WONDERFUL PROSPECT FOR ALL OF US - AND IT DID NOT HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT. IT HAPPENED LARGELY BECAUSE AS AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WE WORKED TOWARDS THIS GOAL - FROM THOSE WHO IMPROVED THE OPERATING PERFORMANCE OF EXISTING PLANTS, TO THOSE WHO WORKED ON MORE ECONOMIC, MORE EFFECTIVE REACTOR DESIGNS, TO THOSE WHO ARE BRINGING THE INITIAL SPENT FUEL MANAGEMENT FACILITIES INTO OPERATION, AND YES THOSE WHO IMPROVED THE REGULATORY REGIMES AROUND THE WORLD. ALL OF THIS WAS FACILITATED TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE BY INFORMATION SHARING ON A GLOBAL SCALE.

THERE ARE TO BE SURE MANY EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE US. HOWEVER, I FEEL COMPELLED TO NOTE THAT AS NUCLEAR ENERGY IS AGAIN RECOGNIZED AS PART OF THE SOLUTION, SO WILL THE OLD DEBATES BE RAISED - DEBATES ON SAFETY, ON WASTE MANAGEMENT, ON COST, ON PROLIFERATION RISKS, ETC. WE NEED AS AN INDUSTRY AND AS A COMMUNITY TO BE PREPARED WITH FACTS AND INFORMATION TO RESPOND, AND EVEN TO LEAD THESE PUBLIC DEBATES. SHARING OF INFORMATION, WHICH IS THE PRIME MISSION OF THE PACIFIC NUCLEAR COUNCIL AND ITS MEMBER SOCIETIES, WILL CONTINUE TO BE AS IMPORTANT AS EVER.

WE IN PNC INTEND TO CONTINUE WITH OUR WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES IN WASTE MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH, NEXT GENERATION TECHNOLOGIES, AND HARMONIZATION OF CODES AND STANDARDS, TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION AND SHARING OF INFORMATION AROUND THE PACIFIC RIM. AS PROFESSOR AKIYAMA NOTED, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SESSIONS AT THIS CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC

INFORMATION AND HARMONIZATION OF CODES AND STANDARDS THAT ARE A DIRECT OUTCOME OF PNC WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES AND I AM SURE YOU WILL FIND THEM INTERESTING. THERE IS ALSO A WORKSHOP ON NEXT GENERATION REACTORS ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON THAT HAS BEEN ORGANIZED BY THE PACIFIC NUCLEAR COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON THIS TOPIC.

WE ALSO INTEND TO CARRY OUR MESSAGES TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY VIA THE IAEA AND OTHER AVENUES, AND TO CONTINUE SPONSORING THIS SERIES OF PACIFIC BASIN NUCLEAR CONFERENCES AS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR UTILITIES, SUPPLIERS, GOVERNMENTS, AND REGULATORS TO COME TOGETHER TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON THE PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. IT MAY INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT PLANNING FOR THE NEXT PBNC IN 2006 TO BE HELD IN SYDNEY AUSTRALIA IS WELL UNDERWAY, AND YOU WILL HEAR MORE ABOUT THAT IN THE CLOSING PLENARY ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON.

LIKE YOU, I LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING ON WITH THIS CONFERENCE, SO I WILL RESTRICT MYSELF TO THAT BRIEF LOOK AHEAD. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE YOU WITH ONE LAST THOUGHT. WHILE THE PACIFIC NUCLEAR COUNCIL IS PRIMARILY A SOCIETY OF NUCLEAR ORGANIZATIONS, WE HAVE ALSO CREATED AN INDUSTRIAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP SUPPORT THE INFORMATION SHARING GOALS AND ACTIVITIES OF PNC, I INVITE YOU TO CONTACT US ABOUT MEMBERSHIP IN THE PACIFIC NUCLEAR COUNCIL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MANY OF YOU IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. HAVE A GOOD CONFERENCE.