Technical Meeting on "Safety Perspectives in Reactor Containment & Systems Design, Assessment and Quality Assurance"

A Technical Meeting on "Safety Perspectives in Reactor Containment & Systems Design, Assessment and Quality Assurance" was organized by SRI-AERB at the Seminar Hall, SRI Guest House, Anupuram during August 8-9, 2019. The aim of this technical meeting was to provide a platform for experts from AERB and various DAE units such as BARC, IGCAR, NPCIL and BHAVINI to share their experience on containment systems design, construction, functional testing & reliability, quality assurance, ageing management, regulation and safety assessment and to disseminate updated information on the present state of the art of containment systems.

Shri. G. Nageswara Rao, Chairman AERB inaugurated the technical meeting and delivered the inaugural address. Shri. S. A Bhardwaj, Ex-Chairman AERB, presided over the inaugural function as the Chief Guest. Shri. S. S. Bajaj, Former Chairman, AERB was the Guest of Honour at this technical meeting.

Around 80 engineers from the utilities, regulators and research organizations from various DAE units participated in the technical meeting. Twenty invited talks were delivered from AERB and other DAE units in five sessions, over a period of two days.

The lectures covered a wide range of topics such as; evolution and design aspects of PHWR containments & systems, experiences with construction and testing of 220, 540 and 700 MWe PHWR containments, design aspects of containment structures of VVER1000 at Kudankulam, design and testing requirements for FBR containments, experiences and lessons learnt during construction and testing of BWR (TAPS-1&2) containments, current regulatory requirements for containment systems, post-Fukushima upgrades & enhancements, safety analysis etc. Gap areas in containment research were also identified and future directions for undertaking related R&D works were also presented. The meeting was concluded with a panel discussion among eminent experts from various units of DAE. Several recommendation and suggestions were given by the panel members for enhancing containment safety. One of the important outcomes of the deliberations was the decision to prepare a safety document on *Do's and Don'ts* during construction and QA of containment structures and systems.

The deliberations in the technical meeting have provided directions for robust containment design, related regulation and features for preventing and mitigating accidents. The discussions have also provided the necessary thrust and direction in focusing future research activities in challenging areas, and reorientation of the collaborative research activities among the participating organizations.

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Shri. G. Nageswara Rao, Chairman AERB while delivering the Inaugural address

Dignitaries and other delegates at the Technical Meeting