

Roles of MOST-DOE PCG for Korea Nuclear Policies

Kwan-Kyoo Choe(*harim-nnca@kins.re.kr*), Min Su Kim(*kms-nnca@kins.re.kr*)

P.O. Box 114 Yuseong, Daejeon, 305-600, Korea

National Nuclear Management & Control Agency, KINS

1. Introduction

This article is aiming at clarifying two objectives concerning the activities of the Permanent Coordinating Group(PCG) of the Ministry of Science and Technology(MOST) of the Republic of Korea(ROK) and the Department of Energy(DOE) of the United States of America(USA). The MOST-DOE PCG and a series of its meetings have been based on the Arrangement between MOST and DOE concerning research and development in nuclear material control, accountancy, verification, physical protection, and advanced containment and surveillance technologies for international safeguards applications. The Arrangement was made on September 19, 1994, and was prolonged on September 17, 2001 for 5 years.[1]

The first objective of this article is to analyze meanings and roles of the MOST-DOE PCG and its meetings compared to the actual nuclear policies of Korea Government. The second objective is to make a suggest how to apply them for the formation of nuclear policy.

2. Nuclear Nonproliferation Policies: ROK-USA PCG Meeting & its Performance

The Arrangement between MOST and DOE

clarifies the character of the mutual cooperation, which is directed not only at facilitating implementation of the mutual agreement between the ROK and the USA, signed on November 24, 1972, and amended on May 15, 1974, but also at respecting the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons(NPT) of July 1, 1968.

As of the end of March 2005, the PCG has held eight times of its regular meetings. During the decade passed, the two parties have touched 15 action sheets. Among 15 action sheets, 6 action sheets were closed with 1 dropped, while 8 action sheets are in progress.[2]

3. Correlations between PCG with ROK's Nuclear Policies

The MOST-DOE PCG was formed on September 19, 1994 in the middle of the nuclear negotiations between the USA and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea(DPRK).[3] The ROK's effort for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsular with the DPRK in the beginning of the 1990s was extended to the institutional approaches for the nuclear controls with the DPRK through establishment of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) on March 18, 1992.

While the nuclear tensions of the DPRK in the

first part of 1994 became aggravated, the ROK's approach for the NPT regime and for strengthening the nuclear transparency was developed ceaselessly in diverse fields. The foundation of the Technology Center for Nuclear Control (TCNC) in Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute(KAERI) in April 1994 was aiming particularly at building a State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material(SSAC) in connection with the IAEA activities.

In the aspect of nuclear policies, the Atomic Energy Commission of the ROK(AEC) has decided the "Direction to Long-term Nuclear Energy Policy Towards the Year 2030" in July 1994.[4] Among the directions, the two objectives, being in advance to implement the nuclear energy policy in such a way as to promote a balanced development of the entire spectrum of both nuclear industries and technologies as well as to implement the nuclear energy policy on the basis of international understanding and cooperation in order to keep up with international harmonization, became more feasible through the establishment of MOST-DOE PCG for the Arrangement.

The first action sheet(AS) adopted by the PCG was the cooperation on the development and implementation of a safeguards system for the Direct Use of Pressurized Light Water Reactor Spent Fuel in CANDU(DUPIC). The first AS has been revised to the AS 4, which is actually in progress under the number of AS 8. The AS 11 and 15 are concerning for the Advanced Spent Fuel Conditioning Process(ACP).

4. Conclusion

While the main spirit of the Arrangement of the PCG is featured by the nuclear controls, a part of the action sheets of the cooperative activities are touching directly diverse application of nuclear technology.

The PCG is playing actually an important window of discussion between the ROK and the USA for the application of diverse technology on nuclear controls as well as for the use of nuclear technology. In this sense, Korea Government could make good use of this Permanent Coordinating Group as a practical and accessible window for enlarging its nuclear policy in intermediate and long term aspect.

REFERENCES

- [1] Nuclear Control Division of MOST & TCNC of KAERI, *Report of the third annual meeting of the PCG for the Arrangement between the MOST of the ROK and the DOE of the USA*, TCNC Report 98-1, 1998.8. MOST, *The Arrangement between the MOST of the ROK and the DOE of the USA*, September 17, 2001.
- [2] The minutes of the eighth meeting of the PCG for the Arrangement between the ROK MOST and the USA DOE, Albuquerque, New Mexico, February 23, 2005.
- [3] Concerning the DPRK's nuclear diplomacy in the first part of the 1990s, see: James Clay Moltz and Alexandre Y. Mansourov (Edit.), *The North Korean Nuclear Program – Security, Strategy, and New Perspectives from Russia* -, (New York: Routledge, 2000).
- [4] See: <http://www.most.go.kr> (Date of Search: April 5, 2005).