Fostering Nuclear Safety Culture in the Nuclear Energy Industry -A Perspective from a NGO

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Abstract: Fostering nuclear safety culture not only matters to operating nuclear power plant utilities, and nuclear energy industry chains organizations, but also matters to all organizations involving nuclear energy industry including NGOs. The China Nuclear Energy Association (CNEA) is the largest, most influential and authoritative NGO with 452 Members covering almost all nuclear related organizations and companies in the China nuclear energy industry. Acting as a bridge and belt between the government and its Members, The CNEA has leveraged its advantage and capability to actively foster nuclear safety culture and played active roles in promoting and creating an effective nuclear safety culture in the China nuclear energy industry.

It is very importance and imperative for the China nuclear energy industry to develop a sound nuclear safety culture while more reactors are in operation and new nuclear power projects start construction in China. The key driver for safety culture development is the requirements of the laws, regulations and policy directives of the Chinese government related to nuclear safety culture on the nuclear related organizations, and approaches and measures taken by the government departments related nuclear industry which promote nuclear safety culture in the nuclear industry. The Chinese government has placed key roles in safety culture development.

Promoting nuclear safety culture shall be in all organizations in the nuclear energy industry including nuclear power groups, utilities, constructors, manufactures, etc and safety culture should be so created to match with their organizational culture, working process and level of education. Differential approaches and measures of fostering safety culture for different organizations are considered to be effective. The safety culture assessment and good practice sharing are useful tools to enhance safety culture in the nuclear industry.

The main approaches for the CNEA to promote nuclear safety culture:

1) organize the annual nuclear safety culture conference to share and exchange the good practices and lessons learned of safety culture experiences with participation of all organizations in the industry:

2)hold regular nuclear safety culture training courses with participation of peoples from the industry, particularly from the manufacturers and constructors that are really needed for understanding and development of nuclear safety culture;

3)entrusted by the nuclear safety regulator, The CNEA has organized safety culture assessment for operating nuclear power plants and for nuclear power projects under construction. In addition, The CNEA has also conducted safety culture assessment on organizations in the industry such as AE company, construction company. The methodology and process of assessment are in line with international practice.

Fostering safety culture in the nuclear industry is tough journey, requiring all organizations in the industry to draw the highest attention and take continuous hard efforts so as to ensure its safety.