

tor of Nuclear Power Plant Company Bangladesh Ltd., the development enterprise established by the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission. Naiyyum Choudhury, chairman of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority, added that “all site-specific conditions, including protection from flooding and earthquakes, had to be addressed before getting the relevant licenses.”

Since Bangladesh expressed interest in embarking on a nuclear power program, the IAEA has been aiding the country through various agency assistance programs. According to the press release, in November 2011, the IAEA conducted an Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review of the country, making recommendations on how to develop a plan to establish the needed nuclear infrastructure. This led to Bangladesh establishing a nuclear regulatory body, selecting a site for the first nuclear power plant, and carrying out site characterization and an environmental impact assessment. Other support included reviewing nuclear legislation, preparing the regulator to fulfill requirements of international legal instruments, developing and reviewing regulations, and developing a radioactive waste management system.

“A big challenge in such a complex project is building capacities,” Akbar said.

“And this is an area where the IAEA can immensely help.” Several IAEA review missions, workshops, training courses, and scientific visits have supported the country in building national capacity and nuclear knowledge.

During a consultancy meeting held in Vienna at the end of last year, IAEA and Bangladeshi officials agreed on further agency support for the period 2019–2021 in the areas of safety, regulatory framework, management, human resource development, security, safeguards, and emergency planning.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Saudi delegation tours Barakah nuclear plant

With plans for a nuclear program moving forward, Saudi Arabia’s minister of energy, industry, and mineral resources, Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al-Falih, on January 16 led a high-level delegation of government officials and technical specialists on a visit to the United Arab Emirates’ Barakah nuclear power plant, located in the Al Dhafra region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Al-Falih and his delegation were received at the plant by Mohamed Al Ham-

madi, chief executive officer of Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC), along with the heads of ENEC’s two major subsidiaries, Nasser Al Nasser, CEO of Barakah One Company, and Mark Reddemann, CEO of Nawah Energy Company, as well as a number of senior management officials from ENEC and its subsidiaries.

The members of the Saudi delegation included Khalid bin Saleh Al-Sultan, president of King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (K.A. CARE), the government agency in charge of Saudi Arabia’s civil nuclear power program, and Maher Alodan, CEO of the Atomic Energy Sector in K.A. CARE, as well as many other officials and specialists.

According to ENEC’s report on the visit, Al-Falih and the members of the delegation were briefed about the operational readiness activities that are ongoing at Unit 1, construction of which was completed in May 2018, as well as ENEC’s Emiratization and human capital development programs. The briefings also highlighted ENEC’s efforts to engage with local companies in order to develop a local nuclear energy supply chain, a key component in developing a sustainable peaceful nuclear energy program.

The delegation visited the Unit 1 turbine building, reactor building, and main control room. According to the report,



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