

International Community Must Take Pre-emptive Action To Ensure Nuclear Security - Muhyiddin
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SEOUL, March 27 (Bernama) -- The international community must strengthen the capacity of individual states to maintain effective control and undertake pre-emptive action to ensure nuclear security, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said at the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit Tuesday.

Speaking at the Plenary Session of the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit which ended here today, Muhyiddin said that the international community would need to enhance cooperation in capacity building, timely exchange and information sharing and high quality intelligence, as well as adoption of best practices.

"Vigorous and robust action at the national and international levels is necessary to secure nuclear material," he said.

Carrying the theme "Beyond Security, Towards Peace", the two-day summit at the Convention and Exhibition Center (COEX) was attended by 53 world leaders.

Muhyiddin who spoke on national measures and international cooperation to enhance nuclear security, including future commitments, also reiterated Malaysia's call for countries to seriously consider the establishment of a United Nations convention on nuclear security that would, among others legally mandate and strengthen the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to promote and ensure nuclear security universally.

During the first 2010 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had called for a UN Convention on nuclear security.

Muhyiddin also said that Malaysia fully supported all initiatives that sought to achieve the vision of a nuclear weapon free world.

"Though we focus here on nuclear security and safety, there is a continued need to double efforts, and to not stray away from the ultimate goal of attaining the general, as well as the complete disarmament, of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction," he said.

On the Fukushima incident, Muhyiddin said that although the incident had raised questions about the viability of a nuclear power programme, the time and the circumstance of greater global energy demands may lead to an increase in the safe use of nuclear energy.

As such, he pointed out that all states must agree to the cardinal principles underlying the activities related to the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

In ensuring that those principles were not abused, he stressed that all states must, among others, exercise full transparency in nuclear programmes, subject those programmes to the full scope of the IAEA safeguard and verification and adhere to the provisions of the Nuclear

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

He also told the leaders of the measures Malaysia had undertaken on nuclear security, including establishing and implementing an export control legislation, and continuing to strengthen capability for coordinated responses to diminish the consequences of any radiological or nuclear incidents, not only in Malaysia, but also in the region.

Asked by Malaysian reporters about the progress on Malaysia's call for an United Nations (UN) convention on nuclear security, Muhyiddin said that it was up to the UN.

Muhyiddin said he also spoke on the issue of nuclear security-safety interface during the luncheon.

"I had stressed that apart from viewing nuclear power as an important aspect, Malaysia will follow all the guidelines, law and seek international consultation to carry out an in-depth study before making any decision on nuclear related matters," he said.

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