



Welcome and Introduction

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Good morning to you,
good morning in Berlin,
good morning to PATRAM 2004

My name is Bernd Schulz-Forberg.

It is a pleasure for me to be the conference chairman and moderator of the opening session.

Please allow me to have a short look into the past and to underline the role of PATRAM in the context of the safe packaging and transport of radioactive materials.

The International Symposium on the Packaging and Transport of Radioactive material (RAM) started in the US in the sixties for the benefit of the safe transport in the US and in the world. Germany has been with this International Symposium from the beginning on, as well as many other countries.

We meet every three years to have the advantage of technical and scientific discourse, the last time in 2001 in Chicago. PATRAM 2001 was a great winner, this is absolutely certain and challenging for PATRAM 2004. All in all, we have done our job and have had support from many of you as well.

The extraordinary high level of safety in transport of RAM is recognised throughout the world. PATRAM-conferences are part of the structure that produces safety. The concept of accident safe packaging is one of the ruling principles provided by IAEA, applied in the legal rules binding in all

countries. The story of success started from the very beginning, has lasted up to now, and will be transferred to the future.

PATRAM conferences are focal points of the permanent discourse and present the state of the art in safety of RAM transport. The Round Table PATRAM integrates all interested parties, including the political one. Based on sound scientific and technical background all facts are analysed, evaluated and documented. Every political consultant, or the politicians themselves, can use the wide range of information for decision making processes. Maybe PATRAM should focus on the facts as well as on the better translation of the results. Scientific and technical solutions should be understood by the public and the politicians to provide easy to read rules and, especially, the related justifications.

As stated before, the safety report of the transport of radioactive materials is excellent. IAEA-rules form the well known basis, and legally binding standards force the strict use of these rules. Having in mind the principle of accident – safe design compared with the external loads in accident traffic situations, it can be concluded that the loss of radioactive material is nearly impossible.

Though the safety in transport is basically guaranteed, the discussion on avoiding shipment is continuing. An additional element is placed in the discussion which often takes over the leading role, the fear. In this context, dread or fear are aimless and vague. The actions and reactions based on dread are often irrational and normal standards are no longer considered right.

It is our task to inform the experts, the politicians and the public on the subject of the safe shipment of RAM. Proper Information will positively influence the background for the societies discussions about the fear.

Colleagues from 25 countries are working together in PATRAM 2004 to form and improve the state of the art in the safety of RAM transport.

I would like to warmly welcome the delegates from

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| 1. Austria | 13. Kazakhstan |
| 2. Belgium | 14. Korea |
| 3. Canada | 15. Netherlands |
| 4. China | 16. Romania |
| 5. Czech Republic | 17. Russia |
| 6. Egypt | 18. Slovakia |
| 7. Finland | 19. Slovenia |
| 8. France | 20. South Africa |
| 9. Germany | 21. Spain |
| 10. Hungary | 22. Sweden |
| 11. Italy | 23. Switzerland |
| 12. Japan | 24. the UK
and |
| | 25. the USA |

Please concentrate on the facts as well as on the comprehensible and plausible presentation of the facts. I would like to thank you all for being with us, distributing your experience and leading the RAM family into the future.

Especially, I would like to thank the speakers of the opening session, who will underline the goal and importance of the PATRAM conference. Finally, I would like to ask the minister of state, Mr. Adamowitch, who is with us as the representative of the Federal Government of Germany, to officially open PATRAM 2004.