



Harold McFarlane, right, INL deputy associate laboratory director for Nuclear Science and Technology, talks with representatives from India during the group's visit to Idaho Falls.

U.S., India officials collaborate in visit to Idaho

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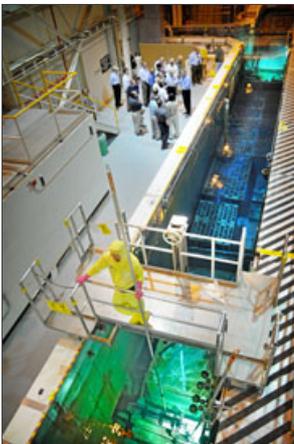
Representatives from the United States and India reaffirmed their commitment to work collaboratively to address global economic, climate change and energy security challenges during a recent U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Energy Working Group meeting.

The U.S. hosted the Working Group meeting at Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls April 28-30, 2009.

This was the first meeting held by the Working Group since entry into force of the U.S.-India peaceful nuclear cooperation agreement. The agreement, signed in October 2008, aims to provide new opportunities for trade and job creation for both economies, help India meet its rapidly increasing energy needs in an environmentally responsible way, and enhance global nonproliferation efforts by bringing India closer to the nonproliferation mainstream.



Representatives from India toured the Advanced Test Reactor to see firsthand some of the research going on.



The group from India visited the Advanced Test Reactor during a daylong tour of the INL.

Serving as co-chairs for the meeting were Shane Johnson, acting assistant secretary for Nuclear Energy in the U.S. Department of Energy, and Ravi Grover, director of India's Strategic & Planning Group in the Department of Atomic Energy.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. by Johnson and Dennis Miotla, interim Idaho Operations Office manager and deputy assistant secretary for nuclear deployment in DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy.

David Hill, INL deputy laboratory director for Science and Technology and meeting moderator said it was INL's pleasure to be hosting this international meeting.

"INL is the nation's nuclear energy laboratory and it was fitting that this distinguished group from India would want to see first-hand the research efforts going on in the United States."

U.S. presentations focused on advanced reactors, nuclear hydrogen research, modeling and simulation for light water reactors and reactor safeguards and physical protection.

India presentations focused on digital instrumentation and control, regulating new builds, hydrogen generation/high temperature reactors and sustainable nuclear waste management.

Discussions focused on deepening mutual understanding of each country's nuclear energy development plans, including light water reactors, near-term reactor deployment, licensing, management of nuclear waste, research and development programs as well as international best practices.

INL Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher served as host as the group also spent part of a day touring the Advanced Test Reactor, Transient Reactor Test Facility and the Hot Fuel Examination Facility west of Idaho Falls.

While in Idaho Falls, the group visited the Art Museum of Eastern Idaho where the INL hosted a reception for meeting participants and local community leaders.

The Working Group will continue its efforts by developing an action plan to sharpen the focus of collaborative work efforts. Its next meeting is scheduled for later this year in India.



The group toured the Transient Reactor

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*Test Facility and the Hot Fuel
Examination Facility west of Idaho
Falls.*