**Chernobyl 20**

**Official info on the governmental Minsk and Kiev conferences, Apr. 19-21 and Apr. 24-26.**

International Conference Dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl NPP Accident / General information on the Conference.

International Conference on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Catastrophe at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant

26 April 2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster. Over the past few years, the three most affected countries – Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, as well as UN agencies, European Union, governments, scientific organizations and NGOs of a number of countries have done a lot to minimize the consequences of the disaster and to study its effects on public health and the environment. The results of the implemented activities were discussed at some major international forums dedicated to the 10th anniversary (Geneva 1995; Minsk 1996; Vienna 1996) and the 15th anniversary (Kiev 2001) of the disaster. The materials of those conferences clearly demonstrate that radiation catastrophes, unlike other disasters, turn affected territories into crisis zones which take many decades to be recovered. According to Jan Egeland, UN Under-Secretary-General, Humanitarian Relief Coordinator, “we must remind everyone that the Chernobyl consequences will still be relevant for many generations to come.”

The most challenging problem of the post-Chernobyl recovery at this stage is the integrated radiological and socioeconomic rehabilitation of the contaminated areas. The main goal of the rehabilitation – real economic recovery and sustainable development of the affected areas – requires new approaches, scientifically justified decisions, considerable financial input, and, consequently, full financial and technical engagement of all the parties concerned.

The 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster can potentially focus the attention of the international community on the problems of recovery and the needs of the affected areas, and mobilize the international assistance to complement the national mitigation efforts. In this regard, within the framework of the 58th Session of the UN General Assembly, the Republic of Belarus suggested that the International Conference on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster be held in Minsk from 19 through 21 April 2006.

The main objective of the Conference is the analysis of the previous mitigation experiences and the development of policy recommendations for the next decade. The governments and scientific institutions of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine, international organisations, as well as government and non-government organisations of donor countries will take part in the Conference.

With the purpose of preparing the Conference the National Organizing Committee was set up in Belarus, which is chaired by Vice-Premier Vladimir Drazhin. In support of this Committee and with the purpose of attracting more international attention to the problems of Chernobyl the International Organising Committee with the Co-Chairs Ms. Cihan Sultanoglu, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, and Mr. Vladimir G. Tsalko, Chairman of Chernobyl Committee, was created.
Chernobyl 20

First Announcement

International Conference

Twenty Years after Chornobyl Accident. Future Outlook

Kyiv, Ukraine, 24-26 April 2006

The 26th of April 2006 will be the 20th anniversary of the Chornobyl accident. With the aim of effective use of the experience gained for strengthening of nuclear safety around the world, the International Conference "Twenty years after Chornobyl accident. Future Outlook" will be held in Kyiv, Ukraine from 24 to 26 April 2006.

The Chornobyl catastrophe resulted in the essential changes not only in Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, but also in the whole world. The catastrophe had a serious political impact and changed attitudes towards nuclear energy all over the world. International regulations and standards for radioactive protection, national strategies for nuclear energy development, nuclear safety and radioactive waste management have been substantially revised. After 20 years of the Chornobyl catastrophe it is now important to analyse effectiveness of measures taken during the period following the tragedy, to review the work accomplished over the last decades and to outline an action plan for future.

The Conference will be organized by the Government of Ukraine represented by the Ministry of Emergencies and Affairs of Population Protection from the Consequences of Chornobyl Catastrophe (MOE) in co-operation with Governments of Belarus and Russian Federation, UNDP, IAEA, UNESCO, WHO, European Commission, Council of Europe, European Centre of Technological Safety, IRSN (France), and GRS (Germany).

This Conference will be the last event in the sequence of conferences devoted to the 20th anniversary of Chornobyl accident. Conclusions of International Conferences “Chernobyl: Looking Back to Go Forwards” (6-7 September 2005, Vienna) and "Chernobyl after 20 years. Strategy for rehabilitation and sustainable development of affected areas" (19-21 April 2006, Minsk) will be presented at the Conference. The Conference will promote an effective implementation of recent international expertise on the following issues:

- radiation protection of population and environment, minimization of consequences of Chornobyl accident;
- medical and biological consequences of radiological accidents, Chornobyl experience;
- improvements of effectiveness of response to radiological accidents;
- economic and legal problems in radioactive waste management, nuclear power plants decommissioning, and radiological accidents response;
- radioactive waste management, Chornobyl experience;
- nuclear power plants decommissioning, Chornobyl NPP decommissioning;
- transformation of the 4th Unit “Shelter” into ecologically safe system.

Working languages of the Conference will be Ukrainian, Russian and English. Proceedings of the Conference will be published. European Centre of Technological Safety (TESEC) has been selected as the Secretariat of the Conference. Abstracts of intended contributed papers (length less than 2 pages paper size A4, font Times New Roman size 12, 17 spaced, with a reference made to one of the conference themes) are to be submitted to the Conference Secretariat by 20 November 2005.