

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning,

Let me tell you how honored I am to be here with you all today to open this 2012 edition of Atoms for the Future! Honored and delighted to be with so many young people, representing the new generation of young professionals which will be the key of our industry's future successes!

Let me tell you something! There is no doubt in my mind that the nuclear industry has a bright future.

I will not underestimate the impact of TMI, Chernobyl, and more recently Fukushima on public opinion. For sure, these very serious accidents shook public confidence in nuclear power, requiring from all of us to work together to restore our credibility and the public trust. For sure, they created uncertainties, and delayed some projects, but...none of them have spelled the end of nuclear energy. None of them have altered its mid and long term perspectives.

Believe me! Nuclear power is alive and kicking and will continue to grow!

There are many reasons to my optimism...

Firstly, the structural challenges we have to tackle are still the same:

- Energy security
- Access to affordable and competitive energy to support our economic development , which is critical in these challenging economic times
- And environmental sustainability for all.

Competitiveness, security and sustainability... Only nuclear energy meets these three requirements.

Let me remind you what John Adams, the second President of the United States said...It was in 1770...He said..." Facts are stubborn things. Whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence." I am fully aware that nuclear energy is still an emotional issue, but dogmatism or not, facts are here: Nuclear energy is indeed competitive, available, and carbon free. and if it is not THE solution, there is no solution without nuclear energy.

Without nuclear energy and...Renewable energy! Indeed, it is time to abandon ideological stances and false debates that pit nuclear energy against renewables. It is not about "either / or" ; it is about "AND". It is about Nuclear energy AND Renewables: they are complementary. Both have a legitimate place in the energy mix.

The second reason to my optimism is the number of countries which have launched or have decided to launch a nuclear program:

India, China, Great Britain, Finland, Poland, Czech Republic,...But also Argentina, Brazil, Vietnam, Malaysia, South Africa...even ...even Saudi Arabia! have chosen nuclear energy as part of their energy mix. Not for prestige! Their drivers are clear: pragmatism, efficiency and responsibility.

And what about France and its consistent energy policy for the past 40 years?

French President François Hollande has clearly confirmed that nuclear power will remain an essential part of the energy mix in France while the share of renewable energies will increase, considering them as complementary solutions for generating low carbon electricity.

The corresponding roadmap will be determined according to the service life of existing plants. Meanwhile, construction at Flamanville - where EDF is currently building an AREVA-designed EPR reactor - will continue.

Now, beyond this rosy picture, how should nuclear power be deployed to succeed? Three words to answer this question about the method for deploying nuclear energy: safety, safety and...safety! ...because it is a pre-requisite for public acceptance.

Let me be clear on that: there will be no massive deployment of nuclear energy without the acceptance of people, whether they are British, Indian, Chinese, American, or South African. No energy infrastructure can be achieved without public backing. So we need to get the people for which we deploy this energy on board.

- And do we get them on board? By answering very genuinely their concerns. And those concerns are accident, air plane crash, earthquake, sometimes tsunami. There is only one way to address these concerns: it is to build reactors with the highest standards of safety.
- And why is it necessary to offer the best of safety to our customers, people, all of you?

Because when we build a reactor today, it will still be in operation in sixty years. In other words, committing to the highest safety standards is the other way to name being responsible. And we must align on the most demanding standards. The other key for success is debate! And you have a key role to play in communications and sharing your knowledge and expertise.

Like the other players in the French energy field, AREVA and EDF are participating in the Energy Policy debate in France.

Because it is through debates, discussions and speaking to non-specialists and the public that we will educate them on what we proudly believe in.

If we don't take to the floor to support nuclear energy at this crucial time, others will make their voice heard. We count on you!

There is nothing regarding nuclear energy that cannot be talked about and discussion and debate are healthy.

Ladies and gentlemen, the future of our industry will be what YOU make of it. You embody the confidence we can have in nuclear energy. You are the driving force of our future development. And there is no doubt in my mind that that future will be as bright – if not brighter – than the past!

Believe me...like Churchill said: *“It is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. For the nuclear industry, this is the end of the beginning”*.

Thank you for your attention.