



energy

Department:
Energy
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PRESS ALERT

Date: 10 May 2016

Members of the media

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWEST

Mr Yukiya Amano, Director-General of International Atomic Energy Agency, will deliver the lecture to the students of the University of Northwest (Potchefstroom campus) on 11 May 2016, at 11h00am. The Director-General will be accompanied by the Department of Energy Deputy Director-General responsible for Nuclear Energy, Mr Zizamele Mbambo and other senior managers in government.

The Director General of the IAEA, Mr Amano Yukiya, is visiting South Africa to attend an International Radiation Protection Agency Conference in Cape Town from 9-10 May 2016. As part of this visit DG Amano visited iThemba LABS in Cape Town on 09 May 2016. This is to be followed by an envisaged lecture at the University of the Northwest (Potchefstroom) at around 11h00.

Members of the media are cordially invited to attend this event which takes place as follows:

Date : Wednesday, 11 May 2016
Time : 11h00am
Venue : C1 Building (Next to main entrance)
University of Northwest (Potchefstroom campus)

Issued by the Department of Energy

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Background

Mr Amano was born in Yugawara, a small town in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, in 1947. He started his studies at the University of Tokyo in 1968. After graduating from the Faculty of Law, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 1972. He specialized in the international disarmament issue and nuclear nonproliferation effort. In 1973–1974, he studied at the University of Franche-Comté and in 1974–1975, at the University of Nice, France.

Amano held different posts in the foreign ministry such as the Director of the Science Division and Director of the Nuclear Energy Division in 1993. As a member of the Diplomatic service, he was posted in the Embassies of Japan in Vientiane, Washington and Brussels, in the Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and was Consul General of Japan in Marseille.

In August 2002, he was appointed Director-General for Arms Control and Scientific Affairs, and in August 2004, he was appointed Director-General of the Disarmament, Nonproliferation and Science Department. In these positions, he was involved in international negotiations such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty extension, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention verification protocol, amendment of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. He represented Japan as a governmental expert on the UN Panel on Missiles in April 2001 and in the UN Expert Group on Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education in July 2001.

In 2005, Amano served as the ambassador from Japan to the IAEA. From September 2005 to September 2006, Amano served as the Chairman of the IAEA Board of Governors. During this time, the IAEA and its Director General Mohamed ElBaradei received the Nobel Peace Prize. Amano represented the IAEA as the chairman at the Nobel Prize award ceremony held in December 2005.

In September 2008, the Japanese government announced that it had nominated Yukiya Amano to be the next Director General of the IAEA. On 2 July 2009, he was elected by the Board of Governors as Director General for the IAEA in the sixth round of voting. He defeated South African representative Abdul Samad Minty, his primary rival. On 3 July 2009 all 145 IAEA member states formally appointed Yukiya Amano "by acclamation".

On 1 December 2009, Amano began his first term as Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency.



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