

Panel: Nuclear Crisis in Northeast Asia (Violet/Cosmos)

Date/Time: April 26, 2012 / 14:30-15:45

Organizing Institution: Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

Talking Points for: Philip Chaffee
Energy Intelligence Group

Even before the Fukushima disaster last year, the Chinese nuclear industry was beset by a number of conflicts and safety warnings: the country's top five electric utilities were trying to push into nuclear operations - something long limited to two smaller nuclear utilities; citizens were pushing back locally against some planned newbuild projects; the government was trying to decide between competing third generation technologies for its future fleet and competing inland sites for possible newbuild; foreign companies were asking for a comprehensive nuclear law, particularly one that would address the lack of liability legislation; the country was struggling in efforts to export Chinese reactors abroad; and the head nuclear regulator was warning of the "over-rapid expansion" of the nuclear sector. Since Fukushima many of these debates and problems and conflicts have only been exacerbated, and Beijing appears to have come to a stalemate on moving forward with new reactor approvals.

* The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.
