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Vijay Sazawal

The nuclear expert re-appointed to serve on the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee speaks to **Aziz Haniffa**

Srinagar-born Dr Vijay Sazawal, of Bethesda, Maryland, one of the foremost Indian-American nuclear experts in the country, has been re-appointed by Acting Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank to serve on the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee for a further period of two years through September 16, 2014, when the CINTAC's current charter expires.

Sazawal, 67, who came to the United States in 1970 for postgraduate studies and has almost four decades of experience in the nuclear industry covering the entire fuel cycle, was first appointed to this committee in January 2010 by

then commerce secretary Gary Locke, now America's ambassador to China.

Sazawal, director of government programs at United States Enrichment Corporation, Inc, a leading supplier of enriched uranium fuel for commercial nuclear power plants worldwide, was consulted by the George W Bush administration when Washington and New Delhi began negotiating the US-India civil nuclear deal.

At USEC, which he joined in 2002, Sazawal provides corporate program oversight and coordination of government projects. He analyzes the impact of federal budgets, policies and regulations of USEC activities, and interfaces with federal officials and members of Congress.

He is a member of the management team involved in the American Centrifuge Project, the leading initiative by USEC to build state-of-the-art centrifuge nuclear enrichment plants based on American technology.

In making the appointment, Blank, who will step down in July to become chancellor of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, said Sazawal's expertise 'would help CINTAC 'in strengthening the export competitiveness of US civil nuclear products and services.'

How do you feel about being reappointed to CINTAC and continuing to contribute to program and policies to expand US civil nuclear exports and strengthen this industry's competitiveness?

I feel a great degree of satisfaction that my contribution during the previous term was recognized by the secretary.

I strongly support the use of modern technology for betterment of people's lives and for eradication of poverty in third world countries. Nuclear power is an important tool in that toolkit that not only ensures a dependable supply of electricity mostly immune to market fluctuations in the price of fossil or renewable fuels, but also because it does not produce greenhouse gases and is therefore a clean energy.

What would your priorities be in this second term?

CINTAC deals with promotion of US goods and services related to nuclear power to the entire global nuclear market — some 50 countries where nuclear power is either already producing electricity or where there are plans to develop nuclear power. The committee addresses barriers within our own country in promoting such exports and addresses ways and means to ensure a level playing field in countries where non-American vendors may have an incumbent advantage. We provide recommendations to the secretary.

At a personal level, my priorities are to ensure that as the definition of American companies keep getting fuzzy in a world awash with multinational companies competing for the same markets, the US government support stays true to only those America-based companies that are truly

owned, operated and controlled by a majority of US citizens and US interests.

It may sound easy, but it really is not. Except for Japan, all major non-American nuclear entities in the world are controlled by foreign governments, and I get very upset when US-based subsidiaries of these foreign government-owned companies start seeking US government support for marketing their products overseas. These foreign owned companies want to have the cake as well as eat it too.

What do you bring to the table in terms of your expertise?

It may sound a bit incredulous, but there are not many nuclear experts in the US with my breadth of experience that are still professionally engaged in a full-time job.

I joined the fast reactor program when President Nixon announced Project Independence to wean away the US from Middle East oil after the gas rationing of 1973. The program was killed by President Carter as a show of good faith to the rest of world by denouncing the fast reactor as a proliferation risk.

I have since worked on space reactors, defense reactors, reprocessing, spent fuel management, and finally in the last 11 years on nuclear enrichment. I have worked for the three best companies in my 39-year career — Westinghouse, Areva — then called Cogema — and USEC.

I am among the few that have worked on almost every technical aspect of nuclear power.

What I bring on the table is not only that rich and varied experience, but also a corporate memory of the nuclear power development in the US in the last 39 years.

How do you plan to contribute to full implementation of the US-India nuclear deal?

I have been involved in a non-official capacity — Track-II — offering suggestions to both the US government and the Indian government on achieving a successful closure of the deal, right from the time the (*Indian*) Prime Minister (*Manmohan Singh*) and President Bush announced it in 2005.

I am also the subject matter expert for the US-India Business Council and contributed directly on technical merits for granting the US programmatic consent for reprocessing to India, something that in the past had only been granted to Japan and the European Union.

I continue to be in touch with principal government technical and diplomatic negotiators from both countries.

There was considerable progress made last year and early this year in tying down the loose ends. The process still has some open issues, but I have no doubt that these issues will be resolved in time.

Many people out of ignorance think that negotiations with India have taken an inordinately long time, but in reality such discussions do generally take a long time. The Indian case by no means is an exception.

Presently, I am trying to educate American companies in understanding how the nuclear plant owner-operator in India, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd, conducts its 'techno-commercial negotiations' that are impacted by two major non-nuclear related debacles that happened in India.

I am not even factoring in the Fukushima accident, which looms large globally in its impact. These historically important debacles are the Bhopal gas accident, and the Dabhol Plant shutdown, which led to Parliamentary laws in India that greatly affect how NPCIL conducts such negotiations.



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

March 8, 2013

Dr. Vijay Sazawal
Director of Government Programs
USEC Inc.
6903 Rockledge Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Dr. Sazawal:

I am pleased to appoint you to the Department of Commerce's Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee (CINTAC) as a representative of the USEC Inc. and of private sector organizations involved in strengthening the export competitiveness of U.S. civil nuclear products and services. Your appointment is effective immediately through September 16, 2014, when the CINTAC's current charter expires.

The CINTAC will provide consensus advice on the development and administration of programs and policies to expand U.S. civil nuclear exports and strengthen the competitiveness of the industry. The expertise you will bring to this work is especially valuable.

I appreciate your willingness to devote time and energy to this Committee and look forward to working with you to advance our common goals. Please contact Mr. David Kincaid in the Office of Energy and Environmental Industries to confirm acceptance of this appointment. He may be reached at (202) 482-1706 or via e-mail at david.kincaid@trade.gov.

Sincerely,


Rebecca M. Blank