

UAE, Australia discuss cooperation on peaceful nuclear energy posted on 10/03/2011

Foreign Minister H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan met here yesterday with his Australian counterpart Kevin Rudd on the sidelines of the 118th GCC Ministerial Council meeting. They discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations to fulfil aspirations of the two friendly peoples. The two sides said they already started talks on an agreement for bilateral cooperation on peaceful nuclear energy.

"A cooperation agreement between the UAE and Australia will certainly provide an opportunity to build synergies between government and commercial organisations in the two countries," Sheikh Abdullah said.

"Initiating talks on the agreement is a significant step that reflects strong relations between the two countries and is aligned with the UAE policy for development of a peaceful nuclear energy programme in partnership with the governments and firms of responsible nations, as well as with the assistance of appropriate expert organisations," he added.

Sheikh Abdullah also said that the UAE was looking forward to its potential cooperation with Australia on nuclear energy in a way that will strengthen relations between the two countries.

The UAE had already signed nuclear energy cooperation agreements with the governments of France, South Korea, the United States and the United Kingdom in line with the Policy of the United Arab Emirates on the Evaluation and Potential Development of Peaceful Nuclear Energy, approved in 2008.

The Policy has endorsed a host of principles, including commitment to complete operational transparency, to the highest standards of non-proliferation, to working directly with the IAEA and conforming to its standards of evaluation, and with governments and firms of responsible nations and expert organisations.

