Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Route de Vinon-sur-Verdon ▲ CS 90 046 ▲ 13067 Saint-Paul-lez-Durance Cedex ▲ France

Comment:
Laban Coblentz
Laban.coblentz@iter.org
+33 4 42 17 66 17

Won Namkung takes helm of the ITER Council

SAINT-PAUL-LEZ-DURANCE, France (12 January 2016). On 1 January 2016, Korean Professor Emeritus Won Namkung began his term as Chair of the ITER Council, the highest governing board of the ITER Project. Namkung succeeds Robert Iotti from the US, who reached the end of his two-year term in December 2015.

Won Namkung is professor emeritus of physics at Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH) in southeast Korea and executive advisor at the Pohang Accelerator Laboratory. He received his Bachelor of Science in physics from Seoul National University and his PhD on radio-frequency heating systems in tokamaks from the University of Tennessee, US. During the course of his career, Namkung worked with both accelerators and tokamaks, directing the Pohang Accelerator Laboratory and contributing to the construction of Korea's first all-superconducting tokamak KSTAR. He has also been involved in Korea's contribution to ITER, serving as the project's first Management Assessor in 2009. In 2014, he was part of the search committee that resulted in the recommendation of Bernard Bigot as the third Director-General of the ITER Organization.

china
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Robert Iotti's term as Council Chair was a time of profound change for the ITER Organization. He took up the position in January 2014 not long after the 2013 Management Assessment Report had urged changes in both project management and governance.

Iotti worked tirelessly to see the recommendations implemented and conducted a number of challenging reforms, including the succession planning process that led to the appointment of Mr Bigot in March 2015. He also led the ITER Council to support the implementation of Director-General Bigot's action plan that included, among other actions, the update of the project's long-term schedule, the establishment of a Reserve Fund to implement the most cost effective solutions to arising problems, and the tight integration of the ITER Organization's Central Team and the Domestic Agencies.

"The ITER Council expresses its gratitude for the enormous personal engagement of Robert Iotti during his time as Council Chair as well as for a long history of involvement with ITER that dates back to the early engineering phase for ITER," says ITER Council Chair Won Namkung. "I am aware of the huge challenge that lies ahead, but I will do my best—together with the ITER Members—to continue to drive ITER along the right track and to have it ready for First Plasma as early as possible."

"On behalf of the ITER Organization, I want to express my deep appreciation for the immense impact Bob Iotti has made on the course of the project during his tenure as ITER Council Chair," said ITER Director-General Bernard Bigot. "The transformation of the ITER Project is now well underway, with a reformed organization, a newly proposed schedule and resource plan based on an integrated review, construction and manufacturing moving forward at full pace, and confident relations between the ITER Organization and the ITER Council as the Council continues to review our plans to have an updated reliable and consistent baseline before the end of June 2016. None of this would have been

possible without Chairman Iotti's vision, commitment and diplomatic skill. With ITER on the path to success, we look forward to continued progress and achievement under the strong leadership of Professor Won Namkung."

BACKGROUND TO THE PRESS RELEASE

ITER—designed to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion power—will be the world's largest experimental fusion facility. Fusion is the process that powers the sun and the stars: when light atomic nuclei fuse together to form heavier ones, a large amount of energy is released. Fusion research is aimed at developing a safe, abundant and environmentally responsible energy source.

ITER is also a first-of-a-kind global collaboration. Europe will contribute almost half of the costs of its construction, while the other six Members to this joint international venture (China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the USA), will contribute equally to the rest. The ITER Project is under construction in Saint-Paul-lez-Durance, in the south of France.

For more information on the ITER Project, visit: https://www.iter.org/