

South East Asia Regional Review Meeting on Radioactive Source Security

Da Lat, Vietnam, 9 to 11 March 2010
hosted by Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (VARANS)

in cooperation with the
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation's Regional Security of Radioactive
Sources Project,
the United States Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration's Global
Threat Reduction Initiative
and the
International Atomic Energy Agency

REPORT

1. VARANS hosted a meeting of representatives of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam to discuss the implementation of the South East Asia Radiological Security Partnership (RRSP) with the Partnership's sponsors, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), the United States Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Observers from the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) and the National Radiation Laboratory of New Zealand (NRL) also took part. A list of participants is Attachment A.
2. The meeting followed a similar meeting held in Bali, Indonesia in July 2008. This report does not repeat the observations made in the report of that meeting; therefore, in order to gain a complete picture of RRSP activities, it is necessary to read both reports.
3. It was noted that the IAEA would be holding the second Open-ended Meeting of Technical and Legal Experts for Sharing of Information as to States' Implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and its supplementary Guidance on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources (IEM) in Vienna from 17-21 May 2010, and that a representative of the region would be invited to report to that meeting on activities in the region since 2007.
4. The objectives of the March 2010 RRSP meeting were:
 - To review the progress and status of national and regional radioactive source security and related arrangements since the July 2008 Bali Review Meeting;
 - To discuss and review developments in subscribing to and implementing the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources; and
 - To discuss and identify common issues and model solutions in developing and implementing radioactive source security and related arrangements with a view to strengthening and sustaining State efforts and promoting regional cooperation.
5. The agenda of the meeting is Attachment B. In addition to presentations on the IAEA's activities relevant to the security of sources, the Code of Conduct and the regional partnership, the representatives of the ten participating states gave national presentations on their source security activities. Those presentations discussed:
 - Recent developments in national legislation and regulations;
 - Activities under the RRSP, including specific physical security upgrades, security awareness raising seminars and security training courses;
 - Specific issues concerning particular facilities;

- Development of capacity to monitor border crossing points;
- Sustainability issues; and
- Suggestions and recommendations for future implementation and cooperation.

6. The presentations noted a number of key achievements of the RRSP, including the upgrading of security at 63 facilities in the region, the conduct of eight security awareness seminars and training courses for senior decision-makers, regulators and operators and the enactment of specific security regulations by three countries (with others in drafting and review). A number of participants in the Project are well advanced in implementation of the Code of Conduct. In general, it could be said that the region is a leader in terms of implementation of source security measures and of the Code of Conduct more generally. Although experience has shown that progress can be made without a formal declaration of support for the Code of Conduct, those regional states which had not yet done so were encouraged to write to the Director-General, thereby emphasising again the leading role of the region in this regard.

7. In recent years and with the assistance of the RRSP, a number of regional states have made great strides in strengthening laws and regulations, strengthening physical security at facilities housing Category 1 sources, working with operators to develop facility-specific security plans and developing inspection and enforcement regimes. In particular, improvements at the national level were now being translated into facility-specific security plans, which are the fundamental building block of source security. For those states, sustainability is the key issue, and further discussion of that issue appears at paragraphs 9-11 below.

8. However, other states participating in the meeting have few sources and little experience - at least at governmental level - in radiation protection, let alone issues relating to the security of sources. Those states (Cambodia, Laos and Nepal) have therefore not yet developed regulatory systems which would allow them to demonstrate effective implementation of the provisions of the Code of Conduct, and on which proper security regulation can be built. The first step for those states is to develop the basic legislative infrastructure. The starting point for that development would be the IAEA, working from documents such as GS-R-1, Legal and Governmental Infrastructure for Nuclear, Radiation, Radioactive Waste and Transport Safety. Once a basic legislative infrastructure is in place, the RRSP can then assist in addressing source security issues.

9. Participants reaffirmed the importance of a cooperative approach within the region and also with the NNSA, ANSTO and IAEA programs. That cooperation has improved national and regional capabilities to implement and sustain security measures. The key challenge for the future will be to sustain those improvements once the current programs cease. In that regard, and drawing upon advice from the IAEA, the meeting noted the following elements of a sustainable source security regime at the national level:

- Commitment from high-level national decision-makers,
- Legislation creating a regulatory body, consistent with IAEA standards,
- Regulations giving the regulatory body authority in a range of areas, including security issues (although it was noted that even in the absence of such regulations, creative use of licence conditions or other mechanisms on an interim basis could achieve the same objective);
- Regulatory guidance for preparing a security plan, including procedures and possibly "writeshops" along the lines of those delivered in the Philippines;
- Regulatory guidance for reviewing security plans, inspection procedures and other relevant documents;
- An inspection and enforcement regime;

- National source register;
- Coordinated threat assessment (DBT);
- Response system (coordinating with other relevant agencies);
- Protocols for incident reporting and assessment; and
- Training programmes, including awareness raising for senior decision makers, train-the-trainer courses for regulatory body staff and general staff development.

10. In addition to the elements described in paragraph 9, a range of elements are required at the facility level. These include:

- Site security plans, with clearly defined procedures and allocation of responsibility for security management;
- An alarm response plan, which is regularly exercised;
- Security system maintenance, including necessary resources;
- Performance testing program;
- Training program at site level; and
- Staff qualification, including succession planning.

11. It was noted that in the early stages of implementation of the facility-level security elements outlined above, the national regulatory body might need to be directly involved with the facility. However, once those initial documents and processes are in place, the regulatory body might consider whether resuming a more traditional regulatory role might be preferable, and whether some responsibilities might better be assumed by other bodies. For example, in Indonesia BATAN, the national nuclear operating organisation, has taken responsibility for such issues as assisting in the drafting of facility security plans, local DBT, incident response plans and training of facility staff.

12. The meeting agreed that participating states should periodically assess their progress against the factors outlined in paragraphs 9 and 10 above. Such a self-assessment process would be useful for all states, and the meeting suggested that the May 2010 IEM be encouraged to consider its wider application. However, such a self-assessment should not form part of the assessment of national capacity for the purposes of the import/export guidance, as this might discourage frankness in the self-assessment.

13. The meeting considered that the activities under the RRSP had significantly enhanced the security of Category 1 sources and that it is now time to devote some attention to Category 2 sources. Many of these sources are mobile or portable and therefore present distinctive security challenges. Therefore, specific provisions for the security of Category 2 sources need to be developed and implemented - both at the national and at the facility level. It was noted that the US NNSA program has extended its technical assistance programme to cover certain Category 2 sources, which could be complemented by training and related assistance under the RRSP. It was decided that a pilot workshop on the application of security requirements to Category 2 sources - focusing on industrial radiography and brachytherapy sources - would be held later in 2010.

14. The meeting recognised that the transport of radioactive sources provides additional security challenges. More assistance, such as regulatory development, training, equipment and guidance material, should be provided in the region to address security and safety requirements. Regional states will actively participate in IAEA meetings dealing with the security of transport.

15. The meeting recalled that regulatory control of sources - which is relevant to security - would be enhanced by consistent implementation of the Guidance on the Import and Export of

Radioactive Sources, which ensures that national regulatory bodies are aware of all high activity sources in their jurisdiction. Connected to this issue, the meeting noted that the May 2010 IEM will discuss the issue of responsibility for the regulatory control of sources detected at border crossing points and other detection points.

16. The management of disused sources, particularly legacy sources (e.g. radium needles), continues to present a challenge to regional states. The report of the 29 June - 1 July 2009 Technical Meeting on Implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources with Regard to Long Term Strategies for the Management of Sealed Sources was distributed to participants, and it was noted that this issue will be a major topic of discussion at the May 2010 IEM. A number of regional states have taken steps in recent years to create facilities for the storage of disused sources, and it was noted that this is good practice which all regional states (and indeed states outside the region) should seek to emulate.

17. The meeting noted that there is an ongoing need for coordination of activities between the RRSP and other IAEA activities, including activities funded by the EU under the fourth cycle of their Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. The meeting encouraged closer coordination between those programs.

18. The meeting noted that a primary benefit of this meeting and the 2008 Bali meeting was that it enabled regional states which had not yet developed the necessary infrastructure to benefit from the experience of those which had. In particular, the former group of states could more readily identify the areas in which further assistance is needed. It is desirable for such intra-region cooperation to continue to increase. Areas of cooperation might include emergency and incident response, regular exchange of information on the import and export of high activity sources, and assistance to states without the capacity to securely store any sources which might be seized at the border or elsewhere. In particular, Vietnam and Thailand offered to host a visit to source management facilities by senior Lao officials to provide them with first-hand knowledge of radioactive sources and of the associated safety and security issues. Funding for such visits would be available from one of the sponsors.

19. Participants expressed their appreciation for the sponsors of the meeting - the IAEA, ANSTO, the US NNSA and VARANS. They looked forward to further support from those organisations and from the observers (ARPANSA and the NRL, both of which have previously provided assistance under the RRSP) for regional source security activities.

20. The Philippines has offered to explore the possibility of hosting a third regional meeting in January 2012. In preparation for that meeting, participating states should undertake the self-assessment described in paragraphs 9 and 10 above - not just on a "yes/no" basis, but at a more detailed level. Such a self-assessment would allow states to more readily identify areas where they could benefit from further RRSP support.

Regional Radiological Security Partnerships for South East Asia Review Meeting, Dalat, Vietnam, 9-11 March 2010

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Radiological Security Partnership for South East Asia
Regional Review Meeting on Radioactive Source Security

9 to 11 March 2010, Da Lat Vietnam

PROGRAM - As delivered

Tuesday 9 March		
8:30	Registration	
9:00	Welcome and Introduction	Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Dong, Vice President of Lam Dong Province Dr. Dang Thanh Luong
	Introductory remarks from cooperating or sponsoring agencies	Mr Allan Murray (ANSTO) Mr Fred Morris (US NNSA) Mr Brian Waud (IAEA)
9:15	Short break and group photograph	
1. International Source Security Programs. Session chair: Dr. Dang Thanh Luong		
9:30	IAEA Source Security Programs	Mr Brian Waud
	US DoE/NNSA GTRI Program	Mr Travis Chamberlain
	ANSTO RSRs Project in South East Asia	Mr Allan Murray
10:30	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>	
2. National Presentations or Remarks on Source Security and Related Activities.		
Session chair: Mrs Cait Maloney		
11:00	Bangladesh	Dr. Farid Uddin Ahmed
11:20	Cambodia	Mr. Nuon Monorom
11:40	Indonesia	Ms. Noviyanti Noor and Mr Khairul
12:00	Laos	Mr. Maythong Thammavongsa
12:20	<i>Lunch break</i>	
National Presentations continued Session chair: Mr. Ferly Hermana		
13:30	Malaysia	Mr. Mohd Irwan Effendi Mohd Nordin
13:50	Myanmar	<i>No Representative</i>
14:10	Nepal	Dr. Kamal K. Shrestha
14:30	Philippines	Mr. Teofilo Leonin, Jr.
14:50	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>	
National Presentations continued Session chair: Mr. Mohd Yasin Hj. Sudin		
15:30	Singapore	Mr. Chai Chiang Yap
15:50	Thailand	Mr. Dacharchai Charnbanchee
16:10	Vietnam	Mr. Luu Nam Hai
16:30	Discussion and Review	
17:00	Close	

Wednesday 10 March		
3. Foundations for Source Security. Session chair: Mrs. Eulinia Valdezco		
8:30	IAEA CoC SSRS & Import-Export Guidance	Mr. Hazem Suman Mr. Steve McIntosh
8:55	IAEA Nuclear Security Guides	Mr. Brian Waud
9:20	Effective Regulatory Systems in Radioactive Source Security	Mr. Fred Morris
10:30	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>	
Foundations for Source Security continued. Session chair: Mr Brian Waud		
11:00	Radiation Safety and its Relation to Source Security	Ms. Cait Maloney
11:30	Physical Protection Upgrades	Mr. Dan Miller
12:00	The International PP&SM Course	Mr. Allan Murray
12:30	Developing and Implementing Training for Source Security	Ms. Eulinia Valdezco
13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
4. Implementation and Sustainability of Source Security. Session co-chairs: Mr. Dang Thanh Luong and Mrs. Eulinia Valdezco		
14:00	Challenges and Lessons Learned in Initiating and Implementing a Source Security Program	Mr. Fred Morris
14:20	Implementation issues and challenges	Facilitated discussion
14:45	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>	
15:00	Implementation of Security Plan – A Local Experience	Ms. Lilian V. Rodriguez
15:30	Implementation issues and challenges (cont)	Facilitated discussion
16:00	Close	
16:30	Hospitality Dinner hosted by VARANS at Dreaming Hill Restaurant	All participants
Thursday 11 March		
5. Next Steps in RRSP Implementation and Sustainability of Source Security. Session co-chairs: Mr. Steve McIntosh and Mrs. Cait Maloney		
8:45	Sustainability issues and challenges	Facilitated discussion
10:15	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>	
10:45	Preparation of meeting report: topics and recommendations	
12:15	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13:30	Discussion and consolidation of meeting report findings	
15:00	<i>Tea/coffee break</i>	
15:30	Presentation and discussion of draft RRSP Meeting Report Findings and Recommendations	Mr. Steve McIntosh
16:00	Close	VARANS
16:15	Depart (for those on flight VN0467 at 18:25)	

1. **National Presentations or Remarks** - suggested topics for presentation by national representatives of maximum duration 20 minutes each including questions. It is suggested that, depending on the content, no more than 10 to 15 slides should be presented in the time available.
 - a) National legislative and regulatory infrastructure affecting radioactive source security
 - b) National source inventory, management and use of security level A and B sources
 - c) Satisfying the IAEA *Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources* and its associated Import and Export Guidelines
 - d) Identification of stakeholders (what government agencies etc) are involved
 - e) Regulatory assessment and inspection for source security
 - f) Licensee security plans and procedures
 - g) Training programs including train-the-trainer
 - h) National policies in relation to the management of disused sources
 - i) International support
 - j) Relevant findings and recommendations of IAEA expert missions such as Radiation Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources Infrastructure Appraisal, Integrated Regulatory Review Service, International Nuclear Security Advisory Service or International Physical Protection Advisory Service.
 - k) Agreement and implementation of Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plans
 - l) Issues and challenges in implementing and sustaining source security requirements, including any of the sub-topics listed below for program topic 4.
2. On program topic 4 "**Implementation and Sustainability Issues and Challenges**", the following are suggested facilitated discussion sub-topics. Participants are asked to consider these prior to coming to Da Lat (note the following has no particular order of priority - it is up to individuals, agencies or countries to identify priorities):
 - a) **Security responsibilities:** developing operational roles and responsibilities - recognising and implementing new requirements (personnel duty or functional statements; lines of responsibility, authority and supervision)
 - b) **Security response:** awareness of role and responsibilities, and the requirements for training and equipment for on-site/local guard force, local law enforcement, and national authorities.
 - c) **Continuous control:** ensuring continuity of control, safety and security during source replacement, transport, import and export.
 - d) **Accounting:** what the requirements for source accounting and inventorying mean in practice. Daily operational radiation monitoring and quality control plus continuity of knowledge security system performance
 - e) **Disused source management:** storage for how long? Arrangements for return to supplier/manufacturer; disposal options; legacy issues
 - f) **Regulatory assessment and inspection** for security: developing new techniques for radiation safety inspectors to effectively inspect for security
 - g) **Training and continuing education** of operational, regulatory and associated security staff
 - h) **Synergism of safety and security** applied to radioactive sources: what does it mean in practice for source users and regulators?
 - i) **Sustainability:** what does it mean in practice for each country, operating and regulatory organisation?
 - j) **Transport security** requirements, equipment, training
 - k) Implementation for **security level B** sources and practices
 - l) **National threat** & design basis threat awareness, training and development
 - m) **Import and export provisions** - international harmonisation, information exchange and coordination.
 - n) Radiation and nuclear **emergency preparedness and response** for malicious acts
 - o) Ideas, need and opportunities for continuing or further **regional cooperation**.