



A bi-weekly publication informative of current safety activities and developments taking place in the countries participating in the Extrabudgetary Programme (EBP) on the Safety of Nuclear Installations in South-East Asia, Pacific and Far East Countries

Regional Workshop on Medical Emergency Preparedness and Response

Jakarta, Indonesia, 17–21 October 2011

The Indonesian National Nuclear Energy Agency (BATAN) hosted this regional workshop, which was attended by representatives from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam, along with international experts from France and Japan and an IAEA Officer.

The purpose of this workshop was to provide health officials and medical professionals with the information necessary for building up and properly using the required capacity to respond to the medical consequences of a radiation emergency.



Participants in the regional workshop on medical emergency preparedness and response, hosted by the Indonesian National Nuclear Energy Agency (BATAN).

Mr. F. Hermana, Director of the Centre for Nuclear Technology Partnership, BATAN, welcomed workshop participants and Dr. T. Taryo, Deputy Chairman of BATAN, opened the workshop.

The first two days of the workshop were dedicated to lectures by the international experts. Dr. M. Benderitter, an expert from

France, reviewed the biological effects of ionizing radiation; acute radiation syndrome; cytogenetic dose assessment and cutaneous radiation syndrome. Dr. M. Akashi, an expert from Japan, discussed external and internal radioactive contamination; medical management of persons on-site and prior to hospitalization; and hospital management of persons contaminated and/or accidentally exposed.

The international experts shared lessons learned from accidents such as the exposure and contamination accident in Goiânia, Brazil, the criticality accident at Tokaimura, Japan, the accidents involving gammagraphy sources in Peru and Chile and the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station in March of this year. The impacts of these accidents were discussed and it was acknowledged that medical doctors responding to a radiation emergency need to have a basic knowledge about radiation for the proper medical management of radiation victims.

The participants from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam gave presentations on the medical preparedness and response systems for radiation emergencies in their respective countries. This allowed participants and panellists to exchange views on common features in medical preparedness and response for radiation emergencies in these countries and on those aspects that are particularly relevant to public communication.

The workshop included a technical tour of the Centre for Safety Technology and Metrology of BATAN and a visit to the bioassay laboratory and the room for biodosimetry and decontamination. Following the technical tour, Dr. T. Yamamoto, IAEA Officer, demonstrated how to put on personal protective equipment and how to decontaminate contaminated wounds.



Training Course for the Trainers on Public Communication of Nuclear Regulatory Organization Daejeon, Republic of Korea, 24–28 October 2011

The Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety (KINS) hosted this course, which was attended by nine participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam, together with three external experts from Philippines and the USA, three KINS experts and an IAEA Officer.



Participants in the regional training course for trainers in public communication for nuclear regulatory bodies.

The purpose of this course was to provide training for enhancing trainers' understanding of the concept of effective public communication and communication planning, for improving skills in public communication and for assisting in the preparation of training courses on this subject. This course forms part of the IAEA's strategy to help regulatory bodies in strengthening their sustainability and the effectiveness and planning of their in-house training.

Mr. J.R. Jubin, IAEA officer, outlined the basic elements of public communication and introduced the IAEA training materials for trainers. He reviewed the IAEA safety

standards that are applicable to public communication.

In a breakout session involving several working groups, participants performed practical exercises to develop skills in preparing training programmes on public communication on the basis of the IAEA safety standards. Working groups were requested to draft a training programme to develop in-house, regulatory organization competence for communicating with the public effectively and in a transparent manner. At the end of this session, course attendees reviewed the proposals of the various working groups in a plenary meeting.

For the purpose of establishing a common perspective, course panellists and participants described the status of public communication in their regulatory organizations. While KINS experts shared their experience in international public communication activities and in public communication for the Korean nuclear regulatory organization, course participants outlined the features of public communication in nuclear regulatory organizations in their respective countries. A KINS expert and Mr. S. Lee, a USA expert, shared their experiences in crisis communication after the Fukushima accident. Following this session, participants visited the KINS emergency centre.

Philippines expert, Mr. A. Palmones, discussed guidelines for press conferences and Mr. P. Shoemaker, expert from the USA, delivered a presentation on public communication planning. Following these presentations, the course participants conducted group exercises that focused on the main challenges in these areas and how to address them.

This course allowed participants to gain valuable knowledge on public communication for nuclear regulatory organizations through the sharing of experience and practical exercises. The commitment demonstrated by course participants underscored the strong interest of ANSN member countries in communication and public information issues in the nuclear regulatory arena.

The knowledge gained through the implementation of the ANSN activities is being progressively uploaded in the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN) knowledge base and can be accessed at <http://www.ansn.org>

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