
Vietnam Preparation for AP Implementation

The 1st APSN Meeting
Bali, 2-4 May 2010

VARANS – Vietnam Nuclear Regulator

- The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) is responsible for both operations and regulations, under which the Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (VARANS) was established in 2003 as an independent regulatory body
- VARANS is responsible for all aspects of radiological and nuclear safety, security and safeguards licensing and regulation.
- VARANS has been very active in drafting and promoting passage of Vietnam's atomic energy law and attending regulations
- The Atomic Energy Law in Vietnam was passed on June 2008 and was validated in January 2009
- Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in 1990
- AP signed 2007

VARANS Mission

- VARANS must help prepare the legal and regulatory infrastructure for the future of Vietnam's nuclear power program
 - Drafting regulations on radiation and nuclear safety and security;
 - Registering radioactive substances, radiation equipment, nuclear materials;
 - Licensing of radiation practices;
 - Inspection and enforcement of radiation and nuclear safety and security;
 - Organizing international safeguards;
 - Coordinating international cooperation activities in radiation and nuclear safety and security.
 - Participating in emergency response to radiation and nuclear incidents;
 - Maintaining a national information system on radiation and nuclear safety;
 - Organizing and cooperating for professional trainings on radiation safety and nuclear safety.

VARANS Efforts in SG Development

Regulatory Framework

- Atomic Energy Law, Article 10: Safeguards activities shall be specified (by the Prime Minister)
- PM Decision on nuclear control submitted to the Government for approval of issuance
- Next steps:
 - Development of Circular on Safeguards
 - Development of Circular on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and Facilities
 - Development of Circular on Import-Export Control

VARANS Efforts in SG Development

Resources

- Established Division of Nuclear Safeguards (4 staff members)
- Established a secure communication channel for exchanging confidential documents with IAEA
- Member of Asia Pacific Safeguards Network
- Next steps:
 - Provision of training for new staff
 - Development of software to handle SG/AP information

VARANS – IAEA Collaboration

- National Seminar on Protocol Additional to Vietnam' Safeguards Agreement co-organized with IAEA, Australia and Japan in August 2007.
- Expert from IAEA and Australia invited to provide VARANS staff and relevant agencies with information on Australian experience on SSAC and AP implementation, AP requirements)



VARANS – IAEA Collaboration

- VARANS staff attending regional training courses on SSAC and AP implementation



VARANS – ASNO Collaboration

- Expert from ASNO invited to provide better understanding of AP requirements; consultation with ASNO experts via email
- Arrangement between VARANS and ASNO on cooperation in nuclear safeguards and related matters signed in Nov. 2009



VARANS – JAEA/NPSTC Collaboration

- Expert Meeting on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy and Non-Proliferation co-organised with JAEA (March 2008)
- Vietnam delegation to JAEA/NPSTC for information exchange (December 2008)
- Discussion on Memorandum between JAEA and VARANS for cooperation in the field of non-proliferation (March 2010)



VARANS – US DOE/INSEP Collaboration

- The VARANS – INSEP (International Safeguards and Engagement Program) arrangement has resulted in action sheets to support the following areas:
 - ❑ Development of legislation, regulations, and implementing rules and guidance for peaceful nuclear power
 - ❑ Assistance in strengthening state systems of accounting and control (SSAC)
 - ❑ Implementation of the Additional Protocol (AP)

VARANS – INSEP Collaboration

- Legal and regulatory development:
 - INSEP is providing support to VARANS for the development of the legal and regulatory framework for safety and security in Vietnam
 - INSEP is providing expert advice and assistance in reviewing draft regulatory documents and implementing guidelines on nuclear power, safeguards, and export-import control

- Strengthening the State System of Accounting and Control:
 - Experts from INSEP and the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) performed an initial SSAC assessment and identified SSAC-related objectives in Vietnam, their current status, areas for possible INSEP collaboration
 - A Four-day workshop for domestic inspectors was held in Australia in August that focused on domestic safeguards inspections

VARANS – INSEP Collaboration

- AP implementation assistance:
 - 2008: INSEP and laboratory experts performed a joint needs assessment with VARANS that resulted in a roadmap document indentifying activities with a corresponding timeline
 - August 2009: VARANS staff participated in a “train the trainer” workshop in Richland, WA
 - Developing an AP implementation reference guideline document
 - Developing AP brochure for industry outreach
 - March 2010: Implementation assessment questions and answers
 - Declaration Helper and Protocol Reporter softwares
 - April 2010: Workshop Training on AP - CIT

- Next steps:
 - Seminar for policy makers
 - Outreach seminar for industry and universities
 - Implementation action plan

THANK YOU
