

3rd APSN Plenary Meeting Chair's Summary
29-30 October 2012
Bangkok, Thailand

1. The 3rd Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) Plenary was held on 29-30 October 2012, Bangkok, Thailand, with participation by 35 representatives from 10 countries, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as observers.
2. The meeting was superbly hosted by Thailand's Office of Atoms for Peace (OAP) and very generously sponsored by the United States Department of Energy.
3. The Plenary was chaired by Dr Robert Floyd, APSN Chair and Director General of the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office.
4. Dr Floyd expressed his appreciation and gratitude to OAP, in particular, Ms Siriratana Biramontri (Director of Bureau of Technical Support for Safety Regulation) and Miss Kalaya Changkrueang, for hosting and organising the meeting, and the United States Government for their collaboration and sponsorship of the 3rd Plenary and other programmatic work in the region. Dr Floyd also conveyed his appreciation for IAEA's attendance (Mr John Patten, Section Head, Safeguards Operations A1) at the meeting.
5. Dr Floyd officially welcomed the Mongolian delegation as observers to their first APSN meeting. Dr Floyd reaffirmed APSN Members' advice to support and engage with Mongolia on safeguards matters. He also welcomed Myanmar once again as observers to the meeting. He also noted that while Laos and Bangladesh were unable to attend the Plenary, they had expressed interest in attending future Plenary meetings.
6. Dr Floyd reaffirmed the change to APSN Chair since the 2nd Plenary and thanked all members for their endorsement of his chairmanship following the resignation of his predecessor, Mr John Carlson. He gave sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr Carlson, particularly for his drive, energy and enthusiasm to work with colleagues across the Asia-Pacific region to bring APSN into existence. Other participants also conveyed their appreciation for Mr Carlson's work.
7. In his regional context update, Dr Floyd noted changes in the nuclear environment following the Fukushima accident, including: safety arrangements being more readily reviewed globally; safety stress testing; restructure of Japan's and Korea's regulatory arrangements. Dr Floyd observed that there were states announcing plans to diminish or move away from nuclear energy, including: Germany; Switzerland; Japan and France; whereas others are expanding, e.g.: China; India and UAE; and that progress towards nuclear energy in new entrant countries has slowed.
8. Dr Floyd relayed further pertinent issues in his regional context update, particularly those that will require ongoing attention within the safeguards environment, including: evolution of the safeguards implementation with the State-Level Concept; more facilities and material requiring safeguards while IAEA resourcing remaining mostly steady; and these circumstances require constant improvement of safeguards implementation, efficiency while maintaining effectiveness.

9. Dr Floyd reaffirmed the positive feedback on APSN, particularly from the IAEA, who welcome APSN's work in trying to promote best practices in safeguards implementation in the Asia-Pacific region. He emphasised that APSN should be seen as a prototype for other regional safeguards networks around the world. He also noted that a challenge for APSN is to secure ongoing funding for future activities.

10. APSN members reaffirmed their acceptance to the chair's summary record from APSN's 2nd Plenary. Following a change to Agenda Item 12 from Japan, APSN agenda for the 3rd Plenary was adopted.

11. APSN members appreciated the presentation provided by countries on their national safeguards activities and agreed to broaden and enhance this agenda item at future Plenary meetings. Dr Floyd proposed that future Plenary meetings include a more thematic suite of presentations on national safeguards activities, such as: sharing experiences on national inspection practices; experiences with cooperation with the IAEA; and, experiences with transitioning to integrated safeguards.

12. APSN members participated in an informative Q&A session following a presentation on the "The IAEA and International Nuclear Safeguards" by Mr John Patten, Section Head, Safeguards Operations A1, which included a discussion of the state-level concept. Mr Patten praised the value of safeguards networks, such as APSN, in sharing examples of best practices in safeguards implementation. APSN members expressed appreciation for having a representative from Safeguards Operations. Members also noted the value of having representation from somebody with direct experience in safeguards implementation that can answer a range of questions of interest to APSN countries.

13. Mr Patten also provided a presentation on the IAEA's State-level Concept. He emphasized that the State-Level Concept is part of the IAEA's efforts to further evolve safeguards implementation and that it is a holistic approach that features a comprehensive and continuous State evaluation process and a State-Level approach for each State. He further noted that this approach allows the Agency to analyse all safeguards-relevant information to complete the picture of the State's nuclear programme, to resolve questions or inconsistencies with regard to State's declarations and to follow-up on issues of safeguards significance.

14. APSN members expressed their appreciation to the US delegation for their work on the APSN website. Ms Oksana Elkhamri, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, officially unveiled the website located at <http://www.apsn-safeguards.org/>. Dr Floyd encouraged members to work closely with Ms Elkhamri in providing information and resource material to populate the website with upcoming events, activities and publications and training details. APSN members agreed to closely examine the website links and pages to ensure correct information has been populated in the fields.

15. APSN members agreed that the paper on the "Fundamentals and Good Practices of Safeguards Regulatory Authorities" (SRA Good Practices Paper) was ready for publication as an IAEA INFCIRC. Dr Craig Everton, coordinator of the paper, expressed his appreciation to APSN members for their contribution to the paper, and encouraged those that are yet to contribute to do so. Dr Everton noted the good reception APSN's work had received on this paper, particularly as the paper was presented at an international meeting, such as the INMM annual meeting in July 2012. Furthermore, the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-

proliferation is incorporating some of APSN's work on safeguards good practices in its publication on harmonising SSAC/IAEA cooperation.

16. APSN members appreciated the ongoing progress in the APSN working groups: Safeguards Infrastructure, Implementation and Awareness; Capacity Building; IT Support and Information; Model Safeguards and Security Legislation; and Nuclear Security). In doing so, Dr Floyd proposed that APSN WG1 (safeguards infrastructure, implementation and awareness), as part of its building awareness activity, consider a keynote presentation for the 2014 IAEA Safeguards Symposium. Dr Floyd also proposed for WG3 (IT support and information) a project to design a new APSN logo for consideration at APSN's 4th Plenary. APSN members agreed to provide input on the concept and design for the new logo. KINAC as facilitator of WG5, agreed to draft a paper on whether APSN is the correct forum to look at nuclear security issues.

17. Updates on training programs and centres of excellence were provided by Japan and Korea. Dr Floyd encouraged APSN members who are running training centres and programs to ensure that such information is captured under APSN's website and that there is close coordination with IAEA on training courses.

18. Dr Floyd thanked APSN members for their views on the expansion of APSN membership. He noted that India membership would be considered when they expressed an interest to join APSN. Following expressed interest from Mongolia, Bangladesh and Laos, APSN members gave their support to extend APSN membership to these countries.

19. Dr Floyd was reappointed unopposed as chair of APSN for the two year period at the close of this Plenary and ending at the 2014 Plenary. Dr Floyd thanked APSN members for his reappointment as chair, and for their support for ASNO to continue as secretariat during this period. He encouraged APSN members to give further consideration in the next two years about a new chair and secretariat to ensure that the task of chair is shared equally among APSN members, and encouraged APSN members to provide the secretariat with as much assistance as possible to minimise the workload on ASNO.

20. Dr Floyd encouraged APSN members to give further consideration to the continuing role of APSN. He noted that while the current APSN agenda is working well at a technical level, APSN members should consider how APSN can get the best value from these meetings, and whether the arrangement of the meetings need to be altered. For example, the meeting could be split over two days, where on the first day agency heads could meet and on the second day a technical level meeting could be held. Dr Floyd proposed that the APSN Steering Committee look at this issue and come back with some options in the form of a short paper at the 4th Plenary.

21. Dr Floyd welcomed Indonesia's offer to host APSN 4th Plenary in 2013. Indonesia agreed to give consideration to dates after June 2013 and advise the Chair accordingly.

22. In closing remarks, Dr Floyd once again thanked OAP for hosting the meeting and the US Government for its sponsorship of the meeting. Dr Floyd also thanked APSN members for their attendance and contribution to a successful 3rd Plenary.

Summary of Action Items 3rd APSN Plenary

Action Items	Actioning Officer/Group
<p>Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APSN members to consider keynote presentation from APSN for the IAEA 2014 Symposium (WG1 activity). • Produce paper on compendium of domestic inspection practices (WG1 Activity). • APSN members to provide input on concept and design for new APSN logo (WG3 activity). • APSN members to examine APSN’s new website and provide any updates/changes to Ms Oksana Elkhamri. Members are encouraged to also provide photographs and resource material for the website. • APSN members to consider “Model Safeguards and Security Legislation”, particularly as to what could fulfil legislation requirements. Purpose of this is to build this into a tool kit containing pieces of text for members to use within their own countries (WG4 activity). • Draft paper on regional coordination mechanism on nuclear security, to give a closer look at whether APSN is the correct forum to look at nuclear security issues (WG5 activity). 	<p>WG1 Activity</p> <p>WG1 Activity</p> <p>WG3 Activity</p> <p>Ms Oksana Elkhamri</p> <p>WG4 Activity</p> <p>WG5 Activity</p>
<p>APSN members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to advise of thematic work that they would like to present on for 4th Plenary. Thematic work sharing experiences to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ sharing experiences on national practices, experiences with cooperation with the IAEA, and ○ experiences with transitioning to integrated safeguards. 	<p>APSN Secretariat to coordinate with APSN members</p>
<p>Steering Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider and propose funding options. • Consider APSN’s role, meeting schedule and how APSN can get best value from this arrangement. Short paper to be drafted on this issue. 	<p>APSN Steering Committee</p> <p>APSN Steering Committee meeting</p>
<p>IAEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise with Safeguards Information Management Division (SGIM) attendance at APSN’s 4th Plenary. 	<p>Mr John Patten</p>

<p>4th APSN Plenary Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indonesia to provide date and location of APSN's 4thPlenary meeting. Most likely to be after June 2012. 	<p>Indonesia to provide update</p>
<p>APSN Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APSN Membership invitation to Bangladesh, Lao and Mongolia Organise publication of the "Fundamentals and Good Practices of Safeguards Regulatory Authorities" (SRA Good Practices Paper) as IAEA INFCIRC (WG1 Activity). APSN Secretariat to update prime contacts and their details for each working group. Follow up with operators of centres of excellence to provide information on schedule of training and events. APSN Secretariat to formally extend an invitation for APSN Membership to Mongolia, Bangladesh and Laos. 	<p>APSN Secretariat</p>