

Chair's Summary of the 11th APSN Plenary Meeting (Virtual Meeting) December 2nd, 2020 Jakarta, Indonesia

1. The 11th Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) Annual Meeting was held on December 2nd, 2020 and has been participated by 70 representatives from 16 countries, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and European Safeguards Research and Development Association (ESARDA). The meeting was conducted virtually due to the restriction of face-to-face activities during Covid-19 pandemic.
2. The APSN meeting was hosted by the Government of Republic of Indonesia and organized by Indonesian's Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency, BAPETEN with three main agenda items: (1) Steering Committee Meeting, which was a strategic meeting among four founding APSN Steering Committee Members; (2) topical sessions, which were dedicated for knowledge and information sharing and updating on safeguards implementation; and (3) Succession of the APSN Chairmanship.
3. The 11th APSN meeting was opened and chaired by Prof. Jazi Eko Istiyanto as the APSN Chairman, as well as the Chairman of BAPETEN. In the Opening session, Prof. Istiyanto gave the opening remarks conveying the messages that Indonesia reaffirms its full support for the APSN and strong commitment to their IAEA safeguards agreement, in spite of the COVID-19 outbreak. He also emphasized that the APSN network is delivering benefits to member countries through information exchange, sharing of best practices, mutual support, access to experts and focusing on regional training.
4. During the opening session, the meeting was also attended by the Director General for Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Febrian Alphyanto Ruddyard. Mr. Ruddyard delivered welcome remarks which emphasized that:
 - a) Enthusiasm of the participants to attend the APSN virtual meeting reflects the unwavering commitment in sustaining collaboration to strengthen safeguards implementation regionally, despite the pandemic.
 - b) There is a persistent imbalance in implementing the pillars of the NPT, which may trigger the weakening of commitments toward nuclear safeguards.
 - c) Strong political commitment in advancing safeguards system regionally and globally is essential.

- d) Universalization of NPT and advanced safeguards standards are the only guarantee in reinforcing transparency of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- e) Strengthened collaboration and expanded outreach by the APSN is necessary. More countries should be invited to join the Network to ensure that safeguards activities in the region are conducted to IAEA standards, and to enrich sharing of best practices and lessons-learned in related capacity building programs.

5. The first of four topical sessions, entitled “IAEA Programme and Activities on SG Implementation During Covid-19 Outbreak” was held by inviting the IAEA safeguards expert, Dr. Peter Rance (Section Head Coordination and Support, Division of Operations A, Department of Safeguards, IAEA). Dr. Rance provided a presentation on IAEA Programme and Activities on Safeguards Implementation During Covid-19 Outbreak. He noted that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the IAEA’s travel arrangements to conduct verification activities. He emphasized DG Grossi’s statement that safeguarding nuclear material all over the world would not stop for a single minute. The IAEA continues to cooperate with countries in order to ensure the implementation of safeguards is carried out in accordance with the legal framework for agency safeguards and national decisions related to COVID-19 emergency.

The facilitator and moderator of this session was Dr. Robert Floyd, Director General of the Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO).

6. The second session covered APSN Activities over 2019-2020. Ms. Margot Mininni, Senior Program Manager for International Nuclear Safeguards Engagement for South and Southeast Asia - US DOE presented a report on Regional Seminar of LOF and Effective Regulatory Authorities (APSN activities on 2019-2020). Ms. Mininni reported that in order to foster Safeguards Cooperation and Capacity Building, two regional seminars were held in Vietnam on October 2019 and in Singapore on January 2020. Those seminars were organized in the spirit of promoting the APSN mission and goals and served as an excellent mechanism for promoting technical exchanges on important and relevant safeguards topics, encouraging cooperation and professional networking within the region, developing safeguards capacity through facilitated and interactive fora, and also raising awareness about APSN activities to the broader international safeguards community. Ms. Mininni also said that APSN is exploring opportunities to publish the reports and self-assessment tool as INFCIRCs issued by the IAEA. During this session, participants discussed a number of ideas, such as virtual training courses and online training modules.

Dr. Hosik Yoo, Vice President of Korea Institute of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control (KINAC) acted as a facilitator of the second session.

7. Third session of the topical sessions has presented three experts in safeguards: (1) Mr. Tomohiro Terasaki, Director at JSGO-NRA has shared Japan’s experience and challenges on safeguards implementation during COVID-19 outbreak; (2) Ms. Perpetua Rodriguez, Invited Researcher at ISCN – JAEA has reported the activities and progress of Working Group (WG) 2. She shared the results of the training survey with the needs identified by

Member States, and the positive experience of the Online Regional Training Course on SSAC; and (3) Dr. Willem Janssens, President of ESARDA informed about the safeguards implementation and ESARDA activities in Europe as well as the announcement of the next year's meeting.

Facilitator and moderator of this session was Dr. Kenji Murakami, Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan. During this session, participants shared the safeguards experience and potential needs during the COVID-19 outbreak. The discussions regarding the next activities covered areas such as assistance on the needs identified by WG2, use of online communications and trainings including E-Learning. Participants expressed importance of developing and using online programs/trainings without duplicating efforts. It was also noted that the optimization of current program and activities as well as financial support would be useful for the future plan.

8. In the fourth session, each APSN member state participating in the meeting delivered a short statement on their country's safeguards implementation in the past year. In general, APSN members appreciated the national statements provided by countries on their recent safeguards implementation activities, especially during the COVID-19 outbreak. Members highlighted their achievements, benefits of being a member of APSN, and expectations for the future APSN.

This session was facilitated by Dr. Khoirul Huda, principal nuclear regulator, Indonesian Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency, BAPETEN.

9. In the session addressing the Succession of the APSN Chairmanship, Mr. Jazy Eko Istiyanto, as the APSN Chairman for the period of 2019-2020, announced that Vietnam will become the APSN Chairman for the next two years. With Vietnam becoming chairman for 2021-2022, it will be the first time that a non-steering committee member state becomes the chairman of APSN. As the APSN Chairman, Vietnam will also be a temporary member of the steering committee for the period of 2021 - 2022. It was also announced that Australia will become chair of the steering committee for 2021 and followed by Japan for 2022. Mr. Istiyanto expressed his hope and urged all member states to give support and assistance to Vietnam during their period as Chair of the APSN.

10. Ms. Duong Hong Anh, on behalf Prof. Dr. Nguyen Tuan Khai, Director General of Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety, gave a statement regarding Vietnam's willingness to be the new Chairman of APSN. She also said that Vietnam wants to share their experience on Safeguards implementation.

11. In the closing remarks, Mr. Istiyanto once again expressed his sincere gratitude to all facilitators, presenters and participants for the exchange of their experiences and discussions during the meeting. Mr. Istiyanto also expressed his highest appreciation to the Steering Committee Members, US-DOE, IAEA and ESARDA, as well as all participating countries for their continued support for the APSN.