

## **Chair's Summary of the 13<sup>th</sup> APSN Annual Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 Hanoi, Viet Nam**

1. The 13<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) Annual Meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, participated by 40 representatives from 16 member and observing countries and organizations. The Meeting took place at Hotel Sheraton, Hanoi, Viet Nam in both face-to-face and virtual format.

2. The APSN meeting was hosted by the Government of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and organized by the Viet Nam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (VARANS) with three main agenda items: (1) the IAEA Key-note; (2) topical APSN Working Group (WG) sessions, which were dedicated for knowledge and information sharing and updating on safeguards implementation; (3) country updates of APSN member next steps and future activities. The three main agenda items were addressed in twelve sessions (see agenda attached).

3. The 13<sup>th</sup> APSN meeting was opened and chaired by VARANS, as the APSN Chair. In the opening session, VARANS' opening remarks conveyed the message that Viet Nam reaffirms its full support for the APSN and the enduring strong commitment to their IAEA safeguards agreement. It also emphasized that the APSN member countries benefit from the Network through exchanging information, sharing best practices, mutual support and focusing on regional training for capacity building.

4. During the opening session, Dr. Geoffrey Shaw, Director General, of Australian Safeguards Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO) also presented opening remarks and summarised the outcomes of the APSN Steering Committee (SC) Group meeting which included:

- a) An update on candidates for membership of APSN.
- b) Revising the APSN's Statement of Principles to update the APSN's terms of reference including the composition and role of the Steering Committee.
- c) A request to members to inform the network of their priority topics to ensure the Working Groups remain fit for purpose.
- d) Confirming the handover of the Chair of APSN to Thailand and Chair of the Steering Committee to Japan at the conclusion of this meeting.

5. After the opening, Mr. Mohammed Lamari, Director, Division of Operation A, IAEA Department of Safeguards provided a Keynote presentation on the IAEA's activities and priorities over the past year. This included encouragement and assistance to Member States to amend or rescind their original Small Quantities Protocols and to bring into force Additional Protocols,

strengthening their SSACs implemented under COMPASS, and the Agency's effort to improve the consistency and effectiveness of SLA implementation. Mr. Lamari also emphasized APSN's role as a forum for exchange of information, knowledge, and good practices on matters related to IAEA safeguards implementation and as a good example for other regions to follow.

6. The third session featured Working Group 1: "Safeguards Implementation, Infrastructure and Awareness", in which Ms. Susan Pickett, Section Head of Safeguards Training, IAEA Department of Safeguards presented an update on the pilot phase of the IAEA's COMPASS initiative and some of the lesson learned so far. Mr. Stephan Bayer, Director of IAEA Safeguards, ASNO delivered a national perspective on 25 years of Implementation of the Additional Protocol (AP) in Australia. The presentation highlighted Australia's involvement in developing the AP, the experiences gained in fulfilling the various reporting requirements and undertaking Complementary Access, and the possible future strengthening of the AP. The presentation also described case-studies of responding to questions or inconsistencies issued under article 4.d of the AP.

This session was facilitated by Mr. Stephan Bayer, Director of IAEA Safeguards Section, ASNO.

7. In the fourth session, Working Group 2 discussed "Post-COVID Capacity Building Programs and Developments". Mr. Masato Hori, Deputy Director, ISCN/JAEA Japan made a presentation on the capacity building experiences of ISCN/JAEA and Mr. Tomohiro Terasaki, Director, Japan Safeguards Office (JSGO), NRA Japan made a presentation on the development of the JSGO's capacity building program for State inspectors in the post-pandemic environment. The session provided an useful exchange of information and discussed future potential of the capacity building.

The session was facilitated by Mr. Kenji Murakami, Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan.

8. The fifth session was presented by Working Group 3: "Information/Communication". Ms. Margot Mininni, INSEP, NNSA, USDOE provided a Review of activities of the WG and Ms. Oksana Elkhamri, PNNL NNSA, USDOE presented on Sustaining Safeguards Implementation and the role of APSN. USDOE confirmed that it can no longer host the APSN website and questioned whether the IAEA could do so. The IAEA undertook to check whether this was possible.

The session was facilitated by Ms. Margot Mininni, INSEP, NNSA, USDOE.

9. The sixth session focused on Working Group 4: "Safeguards by Design" included presentation on Safeguards for Nuclear Power Plants during operation (Mr. Lim Dong-hyuk, KINAC ROK) and presentation on Safeguards for Nuclear Power Plants during decommissioning (Ms. Kazuko Goto, JSGO, NRA, Japan).

The session was facilitated by Mr. Kusbandono, Deputy Director for Safeguards Inspection Division, Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (BAPETEN), Indonesia.

10. The eighth session highlighted activities under Working Group 5: “Physical Protection in Support Nuclear Safeguards”. Ms. GAN Pek Yen, Deputy Director, Assessment and Licensing Division, Department of Atomic Energy Malaysia (Atom Malaysia) presented on Regulatory framework on the physical protection of nuclear facilities in Malaysia.

Mr. Lim Dong-hyuk, KINAC/ROK facilitated the session.

11. The ninth session was titled: “Shared experiences from the IAEA Safeguards Symposium”. APSN members and observers who attended the IAEA safeguards symposium shared their experiences and highlights from the Symposium. The speakers included Mr. Kusbandono (Indonesia), Ms. Oksana Elkhamri (NNSA/USDOE) and Ms. Susan Pickett (IAEA) with further remarks made by participants from Australia, Mongolia, Malaysia and INMM.

The session was facilitated by Ms. Bui Thi Thuy Anh, Director of International Cooperation Division, Viet Nam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (VARANS)

12. In the tenth session 15 APSN members and observers provided a national introduction and update on recent nuclear and safeguards activities, developments and challenges.

The session was facilitated by Ms. Bui Thi Thuy Anh, VARANS/Viet Nam.

13. The eleventh session was presented by INMM in which Mr. Mark Shanfein (INMM President) outlined the activities of the INMM. It was noted that INMM could have similar MoU to that APSN already had with ESARDA.

14. In the twelfth session, the APSN members discussed APSN Membership, Working Groups, next steps, its future planned activities and meetings. Some of the questions, views and ideas raised include:

- Japan will send out “needs survey” ahead of the 14<sup>th</sup> APSN annual meeting
- support for future APSN meetings to be conducted together with an IAEA workshop.
- redistribute list of safeguards experts among APSN members
- assistance on how to raise awareness of the importance of safeguards to senior policy makers
- assistance on knowledge management
- develop APSN domestic inspection procedure guidelines
- [more ideas?]

The session was facilitated by Mr. Stephan Bayer, Director of IAEA Safeguards, ASNO APSN Steering Committee Chair.

15. In the thirteenth session, there was a hand-over of the APSN Steering Committee Chair from Australia to Japan and the APSN Chair from Viet Nam to Thailand for the upcoming two years of 2023-2024.

16. In the closing remarks, Prof. Nguyen Tuan Khai, on behalf of VARANS/Viet Nam once again expressed his sincere gratitude to all facilitators, presenters and participants for the exchange of their experiences and discussions during the meeting. Mr. Nguyen Tuan Khai also expressed his highest appreciation to the Steering Committee Members, to Indonesia as the previous Chair of APSN, US-DOE, IAEA for their sponsorship as well as all participating countries for their extension of support for the Network.