

## **Chair's Summary of the 14<sup>th</sup> APSN Plenary Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 Bangkok, Thailand**

1. The 14<sup>th</sup> Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) Annual Meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023, participated by 40 representatives from 14 countries and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
2. The APSN meeting was hosted by the Government of Thailand and organized by Office of Atoms for Peace (OAP) with three main agenda items: (1) The IAEA Keynote Session; (2) topical APSN Working Group (WG) sessions, which were dedicated for knowledge and information sharing and updating on safeguards implementation; and (3) country updates of APSN members along with APSN new development and future activities. The three main agenda items were addressed in twelve sessions (see agenda attached).
3. The 14<sup>th</sup> APSN meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. Permsuk Sutthaphiwat, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation. In the Opening session, Mr. Permsuk Sutthaphiwat gave opening remarks and emphasized that the APSN member countries are benefiting from the Network through exchanging information and knowledge, sharing experiences and good practices, mutual support and collaboration opportunity with each other.
4. During the opening session, Mr. Kenji Murakami, Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, as a Steering Committee Chair also reported the result of the APSN Steering Committee (SC) meeting held earlier which included:
  - a) 2023 Annual Meeting Update;
  - b) APSN New Membership;
  - c) Major Development which included the update of Statement of Principles and Terms of References; and
  - d) 2024 Program.
5. After the opening, Mr. Massimo Aparo, Deputy Director General, IAEA provided a Keynote presentation as a video message. Mr. Mohammed Lamari, Director, Division of Operation A, IAEA Department of Safeguards also provided another Keynote presentation 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.

The Session was facilitated by Mr. Somjait Sudprasert, Acting Director, Nuclear and Radiation Inspection Division, OAP, Thailand.

6. The third session featured Working Group 1 (WG1) in which Ms. Lyndell Evans, A/g Assistant Director, Safeguards Implementation Section, Australian Safeguards Non-Proliferation Office (ASNO) and Mr. Lukman Hakim, Nuclear Regulatory Senior, Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (BAPETEN), Indonesia both shared their national experiences about the “Importance of domestic safeguards inspections to support IAEA verification activities” in Australia and Indonesia, respectively, along with the Australia’s plans to establish an inspection qualification program which will initiate intersessional work to develop best practices guide on domestic inspections.

This session was facilitated by Mr. Craig Everton, Assistant Secretary Non-Proliferation Technology and Partnerships Branch, ASNO, Australia.

7. In the fourth session, Working Group 2 (WG2) discussed “Needs survey results and evaluation” and “Sharing of the capacity building experiences”. After an opening remark made by Mr. Kenji Murakami, Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Japan, Mr. Masato Hori, Director, ISCN/JAEA, Japan made a presentation on the capacity building experiences of ISCN/JAEA and Ms. Megumi Sekine, Assistant Principal Engineer, ISCN/JAEA, Japan made a presentation on the needs survey results and evaluation. Mr. Tomohiro Terasaki, Director, Japan Safeguards Office (JSGO), NRA, Japan also made a presentation on the sharing of the capacity building experiences in JSGO. The session provided a useful exchange of information and discussed future activity for the capacity building.

The Session was facilitated by Mr. Ryusuke Wakabayashi, Researcher of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.

8. The fifth session, Working Group 4 (WG4) included the presentations on the “Safeguards by Design (SBD) Introduction” by Mr. Kusbandono, Safeguards Inspector, Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (BAPETEN), Indonesia and the “Safeguards by Design (SBD) for Advance Reactor” by Mr. Jeremy Whitlock, Senior Technical Advisor (SBD), SG Concepts and Planning, Department of Safeguards, IAEA discussed the types, benefits and examples of SBD. His presentation also provided Safeguards considerations for SMRs, safeguards technical needs for SMRs, and challenges in implementing SBD.

The Session was facilitated by Mr. Kusbandono, Safeguards Inspector, Nuclear Energy Regulatory Agency (BAPETEN), Indonesia.

9. The sixth session, Working Group 3 (WG3) provided an update on the ongoing efforts to revitalize the APSN website, which has been suspended for the past three years. During this APSN Plenary, BAPETEN, Indonesia expressed interest in establishing and managing a new APSN website and Australia offered to assist. The US DOE/NNSA INSEP agreed to transfer all the website materials that are currently archived and collaborate with BAPETEN and ASNO in providing input on the technical requirements and content.

In addition to the website, APSN will explore other mechanisms for disseminating information and communicating with the international community. Members agreed that it would benefit the organization and the greater safeguards community to publish outcomes from regional workshops over the past few years as IAEA INFCIRCS. INSEP agreed to assemble all the good practices the countries have shared during these workshops and seminars and to work with OAP and IAEA to gather them into a compendium of regional practices in safeguards.

The U.S. also proposed to update the scope of the working group to focus on different safeguards topics selected by APSN members. At APSN 14th Plenary the Working Group 3 chose the topic of safeguards outreach, which is of interest to many APSN members. Relevant to SQP and CSA states, Outreach and Communication and Stakeholder Engagement emerged as a cross-cutting theme. WG3 also suggested that the topics and any related activities or tasks be limited in duration (e.g., 2 years). Finite duration could encourage development of concrete products (e.g. regional good practices documents, 'toolkits', outreach materials, templates, etc.).”.

The Session was facilitated by Ms. Margot Mininni, Senior Program Manager for Southeast Asia and Asia Pacific, US DOE/NNSA INSEP, USA.

10. The seventh session focused on Working Group 5 (WG5) which included presentation by Mr. David Moroz, Director General, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) sharing their experiences at CNSC on Nuclear Material Accountancy report system. Ms. Nurul Hafiza Mohamed Aliasrudin, Science Officer, Department of Atomic Energy, Malaysia made a presentation sharing the information on the NMAC plan used in Malaysia's regulation for Safeguards and Security interface approach and lastly, Ms. Amna Al Ali, Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulations (FANR) also made a online presentation on sharing the UAE Safeguards inspection and implementation.

The session was facilitated by Dr. Ho-sik Yoo, Advisor, Korea Institute of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control (KINAC), Republic of Korea

11. In the eighth session 14 APSN members and observers provided a national introduction and updates on recent nuclear and safeguards activities, developments and challenges. IAEA also provided updates on recent Agency's activities.

The session was facilitated by Mr. Somjait Sudprasert, Acting Director, Nuclear and Radiation Inspection Division, OAP, Thailand.

12. The ninth session was titled: "Information from the IAEA and Partners (ESARDA, INMM)". The Session shared information and current activities by these organizations.

Mr. Mohamed Lamari, Director SGOA, IAEA presented the information about DPRK, AUKUS, financial condition and gender equality etc. which provided very valuable and useful insights. Ms. Mari Lahti, President, ESARDA

participated online to share the information about its current activities and the topics interested by the ESARDA members. Mr. Mark Schanfein, President, INMM sent video message discussing the annual programs and announced the 2024 activities. Those presentations provide useful information which would lead to a future activities and cooperation between the organizations.

This Session was facilitated by Mr. Kenji Murakami, Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan..

13. In the tenth session on “APSN New development and future activities”, Mr. Craig Everton, Assistant Secretary, ASNO presented the updated Statement of Principles and Terms of References which had been approved by the Steering Committee and reviewed by all members of the APSN. After the presentation, the updated document was approved on consensus by the APSN members and it became the official Statement of Principles and Terms of References of the APSN (see SOP/TOR attached).

There was an Executive Roundtable prior to the 14th APSN annual meeting. Mr. John Lepingwell, Acting SHOA3 and DPRK Team Leader presented the summary of the discussion. The Roundtable and the following discussion provided valuable opportunity in sharing views and ideas between APSN and IAEA.

This Session was facilitated by Mr. Kenji Murakami, Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

14. The eleventh session on “APSN membership”. Brunei and Lao PDR had expressed their interest in joining the APSN. Papua New Guinea also expressed its interest in joining the APSN. These countries pending members will have to send an official letter stating the acceptance of the Statement of Principles and Terms of References of the APSN to Thailand, the Chair of APSN.

The session was facilitated by Mr. Somjait Sudprasert, Acting Director, Nuclear and Radiation Inspection Division, OAP, Thailand.

15. Under the twelfth session on “Any Other Business”, Indonesia shared the recent activities of ASEANTOM and Australia had expressed their interest in becoming the 2025/2026 APSN Chair.

The session was facilitated by Mr. Somjait Sudprasert, Acting Director, Nuclear and Radiation Inspection Division, OAP, Thailand.