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On-Site Assistance deployment in the CoE Regions

- **Algiers Regional Secretariat opens**
- **Heads of Secretariats meet in Brussels**

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Inside this issue

Focus	OSA deployment to four regions	3
	The Inter-Arab Nuclear Detection and Response Exercise held in Abu Dhabi	5
	Third CBRN Heads of Secretariat meeting	6
Regions	African Atlantic Façade	8
	Central Asia	10
	Eastern and Central Africa	11
	Gulf Cooperation Council Countries	12
	Middle East	13
	North Africa and Sahel Regional Secretariat Opening	14
	South East Asia	15
	South East and Eastern Europe	17
Project news	Project 29	18
	Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards Management - University Master's Programme	
	Other projects	20

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OSA deployment to four regions

biographies and first impressions of deployment

On-site technical assistance (OSA)

Since October 2015 the Regional Secretariats for the African Atlantic Façade, Eastern and Central Africa, Gulf Cooperation Council countries and South East and Eastern Europe regions have been reinforced through the deployment of four experts. Their role is to provide additional technical support to the National Focal Points and local CBRN CoE Secretariat and to increase the impact of projects funded under the CBRN CoE initiative, thereby complementing the activities of the five IcSP regional cooperation officers deployed in the EU delegations to Jordan, Kenya, Pakistan, Philippines and Senegal, whose role is to advise on and manage the implementation of EU programmes relative to security and safety threats in a trans-regional context – including the CBRN CoE initiative.

The OSA provide guidance on the following activities:

- CBRN Needs assessment based on threat perception and risk/vulnerability assessment
- CBRN National Action Plans and their implementation
- Training philosophy, curriculum development and product identification for empowering institutions and equipping of response teams
- Ongoing projects and project proposals from PCs, including development of Terms of Reference
- CBRN exercises and drills
- Regional Round Table Meetings and Seminars



Dr. Peter Clevestig
Sweden



Dr. Clevestig is a trained virologist having worked on microbiological research on the HIV-1 virus since 2000 at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. He has authored several scientific articles, book chapters on bioterrorism and security aspects of the life sciences, as well as a handbook on laboratory biosecurity for practitioners. As Senior Researcher with the Chemical and Biological Security Project of the SIPRI Arms Control and Non-proliferation Programme since 2007, Dr. Clevestig has worked on multiple EU projects related to biological security and export controls, including fact finding missions and training exercises in the field. His work currently focuses on the safety and security of biological materials, biotechnology and related policies. He is a regular speaker at international events on biosecurity, biosafety and biological export controls, including intangible technologies.

Present Status as Key Expert

Dr. Peter Clevestig (Sweden) is the appointed OSA Expert to the CoE Secretariat for the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

The GCC Region

Dr Clevestig has been in the UAE for 3 months (of a total one-year deployment) and is working closely with the Abu Dhabi Police who are hosting and implementing the activities of the CoE Initiative. The focus of the work at this early phase is to establish good working relationships with his UAE colleagues and support them in enabling the Regional Secretariat to begin its operations. Work is also underway to engage with CoE partners in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and to promote the CoE initiative in Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain in the hope to have them join the Initiative during 2016.



Col. (Dr.) Ram Athavale, Retd
India



Col. (Dr.) Ram Athavale, Retd, is a veteran Indian Army officer (having served in the military for 30 years). A certified Tank Technologist, he has commanded an operational Armoured Regiment. He went on to acquire domain specialisation in CBRN Security and Incident Management. For the last two decades, he has been engaged in CBRN Security and Incident Management issues. Col. Athavale holds a PhD in CBRN Terrorism and Incident Management and a Fellowship for research in CBRN Disaster Mitigation. With experience in CBRN policy formulation, Homeland Security and Live Agent testing (chemical agents), he has been a Key Advisor to the Government of India on CBRN Security and Incident Management issues. Dr Athavale is a Visiting Faculty Member to some key Indian universities and military institutions on CBRN subjects, a regular CBRN subject panellist and speaker in international conferences and has authored numerous articles on CBRN subjects. He specialises in CBRN Security Audits, Critical Infrastructure Protection and High Visibility Event security against CBRN Threats.

Present Status as Key CBRN Expert

In his present role, he is facilitating the enhancement of CBRN Risk Mitigation capability and capacity of the ten Partner Countries (PCs) of the ECA Region.

The ECA Region

The region has had a turbulent history and the PCs are emerging as developing nations. Poverty and lack of basic necessities has seen spread of diseases and illnesses. Rapid industrialisation and cross border trade has brought in huge amounts of toxic threats in terms of chemicals, fertilizers, paints, dyes and bio-medical supplies. There is a growing need to put in place optimal security and safety measures to prevent, and, if required, respond to CBRN incidents. Ethnic unrest and terrorism has added the threat of CBRN Terror. It is imperative that PCs correctly understand this threat and empower themselves to combat it.





Stéphane Huriet
France



Stéphane Huriet is a former Lieutenant-Colonel of the French civil security. With 25 years' experience as a firefighter (of which 20 as an officer), Mr. Huriet was actively involved in the management of many response operations and exercises. Since 2000, he has been involved in Hazardous Material (HazMat) accidents/incidents operations and CBRN related issues. Stéphane Huriet has a Master's degree in "Risks, Crisis Management and Technological Risks" and specialised in imagery intelligence applied to hazardous incidents. He also holds certifications allowing him to command all relief operations at French County area level and to work as advisor to an incident commander. Stéphane Huriet has also been a university lecturer at the French Academy for fire, rescue and civil protection officers.

Present Status as Key Expert

His present role is to enhance capability and capacity in CBRN Risk Mitigation of the nine Partner Countries (PCs) of the AAF Region.

The AAF Region

The PCs in the AAF region have different levels in CBRN related mitigation capabilities and capacities. Each country has one or more C, B, R or N topics of concern, ranging from epidemiological outbreaks to technological risk, from HazMat accidents/incident to terrorist attacks. In this context, the scope of the work is technically varied and extensive in the implementation of activities for the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery during CBRN events. For the purpose of the OSA planned activities Stéphane Huriet will spend 100 days each year in Rabat, at the Regional Secretariat, and 100 days each year in the different partner countries.



Jumber Mamasakhlishi
Georgia



Jumber Mamasakhlishi has a medical doctor's background and is a former Head of the Department of Nuclear and Radiation Safety of Georgia. He worked as a medical practitioner as well as holding various positions in the Georgian civil service. Over the last 15 years Dr. Mamasakhlishi has been engaged in numerous projects and programmes related to CBRN safety and security issues, supported by different state and international organisations. He took part in several state commissions focused on CBRN threat reduction strategy and took an active role in the establishment of Georgia's legislations in radiation safety, nuclear security, radioactive waste management, licensing and inspection of radiation activities, preparedness and response to radiological emergencies and action plans against nuclear smuggling. Dr. Mamasakhlishi acts as a member of the international technical working group to combat illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material since 2005.

CBRN Experience

In his present role, he is facilitating the enhancement of CBRN Risk Mitigation capability and capacity of nine Partner Countries (PCs) in the SEE Region.

The SEE Region

The Initiative currently involves nine countries from the former Soviet Union (Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine), and the Balkans (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia). A great majority of these are EU candidate states. Implementation of the Initiative is of significant importance to other EU instruments addressing capacity-building in SEE states and to bringing national legislations, institutions and infrastructure in line with EU standards. Unstable areas still persist in the region. The legacy of the former Soviet Union's industry – which had significant influence in the region – is evident in the great abundance of toxic and radioactive waste, bio-materials, fertilizers, toxins precursors and other hazardous materials, and the application of countermeasures is a clear necessity. Rapid development of trans-border trade and the establishment of new business communications have given rise to the evident need to enhance strategic trade control mechanisms, border security, CBRN and HazMat safety, CBRN emergency preparedness, bi- and multilateral information and expertise exchange.



Pavel Castulik
Czech Republic



Dr. Castulik has trained as a chemical technology engineer. His PhD obtained from the University of Defence in Brno focused on protection against NBC/CBRN with a specialisation in decontamination technologies. Since 2008 he has lectured at numerous universities. Currently he is a member of the Advisory Board of the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security in Poland. Dr. Castulik's expertise covers multi-disciplinary topics on CBRN preparedness and response. As a veteran Czech army officer, he has worked for the Czech Ministry of Defence on multiple CBRN related R&D projects. He led Czech expert teams during the UN Special Commission inventory and destruction of CBRN material missions to Iraq. He has furthermore worked extensively for the OPCW and its States Parties. His work currently focuses on the transfer of know-how for safety, security, technology and education on CBRN issues at local and governmental levels.

Present Status as Key Expert

As OSA-Team Leader, he facilitates and coordinates the activities of the deployed OSA Key Experts while liaising with the European Commission, UNICRI and the governance team.

The OSA-Team at a Glance

The OSA-Team provides input during all phases of the CBRN CoE cycle of activities. E.g., guidelines for the certification of training courses were submitted for discussion with the intention to promote the quality and sustainability of the trainings. The work of the OSA-Team focuses on some of the six pillars of sustainability identified during the last Heads of Secretariats meeting. "Substance": the team will assist in the identification and prioritisation of local, national and regional CBRN related gaps and needs. "Regional Cooperation" will be promoted through the organisation of more regular meetings at national and regional levels, and through the drafting of business plans enabling the development of Regional CBRN Action Plans. "Schools of Excellence": the mapping of CBRN related national and regional assets (R&D agencies, laboratories, training centres, local experts) will allow the set-up of a network of institutions that can provide CBRN certified training, field exercises, expertise and equipment. In addition, the mapping of EU and bilateral CBRN-related R&D projects will identify project outputs that would be informative for partner countries.

The Inter-Arab Nuclear Detection and Response Exercise in Abu Dhabi

by Adil Radoini and Klaus Mayer

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) hosted the first Inter-Arab Nuclear Detection and Response Exercise "FALCON" in Abu Dhabi from 23-25 February 2016. It was regionally-oriented and focused on key aspects of nuclear security related to detection and initial response to radiological and nuclear threats with an emphasis on national planning, information-sharing, operational cooperation, and decision-making. The three-day exercise was developed in partnership with the United Arab Emirates, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Kingdom of Morocco. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) facilitated the meeting logistics through the regional secretariat of the CoE. The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) invested significant effort in developing the exercise scenario and providing discussion facilitators. Leading partner countries from the GICNT, including the United States and Russian Federation Co-Chairs, Finland, Australia and the Netherlands, attended as subject matter experts. Further technical expertise was provided by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre - Institute for Transuranium Elements, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), GICNT and UNICRI. Representatives from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE participated in the event and the World Customs Organization attended as an observer.

The core part of FALCON was a scenario based table-top exercise in which countries were confronted with nuclear security events that might be linked to an anticipated criminal or terrorist act. Participants discussed the scenario in breakout groups within their respective national teams: this ensured thorough, national-level discussions. Eight injects



Participants at the FALCON Exercise. Abu Dhabi, 23-25 February 2016.

were discussed (with numerous guiding questions on each inject) and the final key conclusions of the respective breakout groups were then presented to the plenary. In the concluding session, participating countries underlined their awareness of radiological and nuclear threats, stressed their responsibility for nuclear security and showed great interest in continuing the dialogue on nuclear security. They also emphasised the need for follow-up events which will build on the success of FALCON and which will contribute to further improving nuclear security in the region.

The exercise was promoted by the EU CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat in Abu Dhabi. Since its establishment in June 2014 the Secretariat addresses regional needs by improving the existing CBRN emergency response capacities and by providing training in prevention, preparedness and response. FALCON was intended to be an initial step of the CoE's efforts in this region, working together with other international institutions such as the IAEA and GICNT, to promote strengthened regional cooperation and

capacity-building. Discussions during this event intended to promote outcomes such as raising awareness of regional threats; fostering regional cooperation between participating sectors and countries; promoting coordination through existing mechanisms for inter-agency and cross-sector coordination in security on RN issues; identifying best practices that specifically support nuclear detection capabilities and initial response and coordination to investigate an incident involving RN materials; and building and sustaining capabilities by promoting independent follow-on RN detection, forensic and response exercises and/or exercise programmes.

The meeting was attended by over 200 participants and during the final day, additional technical workshops and trainings on this subject were requested by partner countries both at the national and at the regional level to be organised in the coming months. The FALCON experience showed how the CBRN Centres of Excellence can be beneficial to partner countries while promoting synergies between several stakeholders.



Third CBRN Heads of Secretariat meeting

by Jean-Pierre Bardoul and Tristan Simonart

The annual Heads of Secretariat meeting was held in Brussels, Belgium on 7 March 2016.

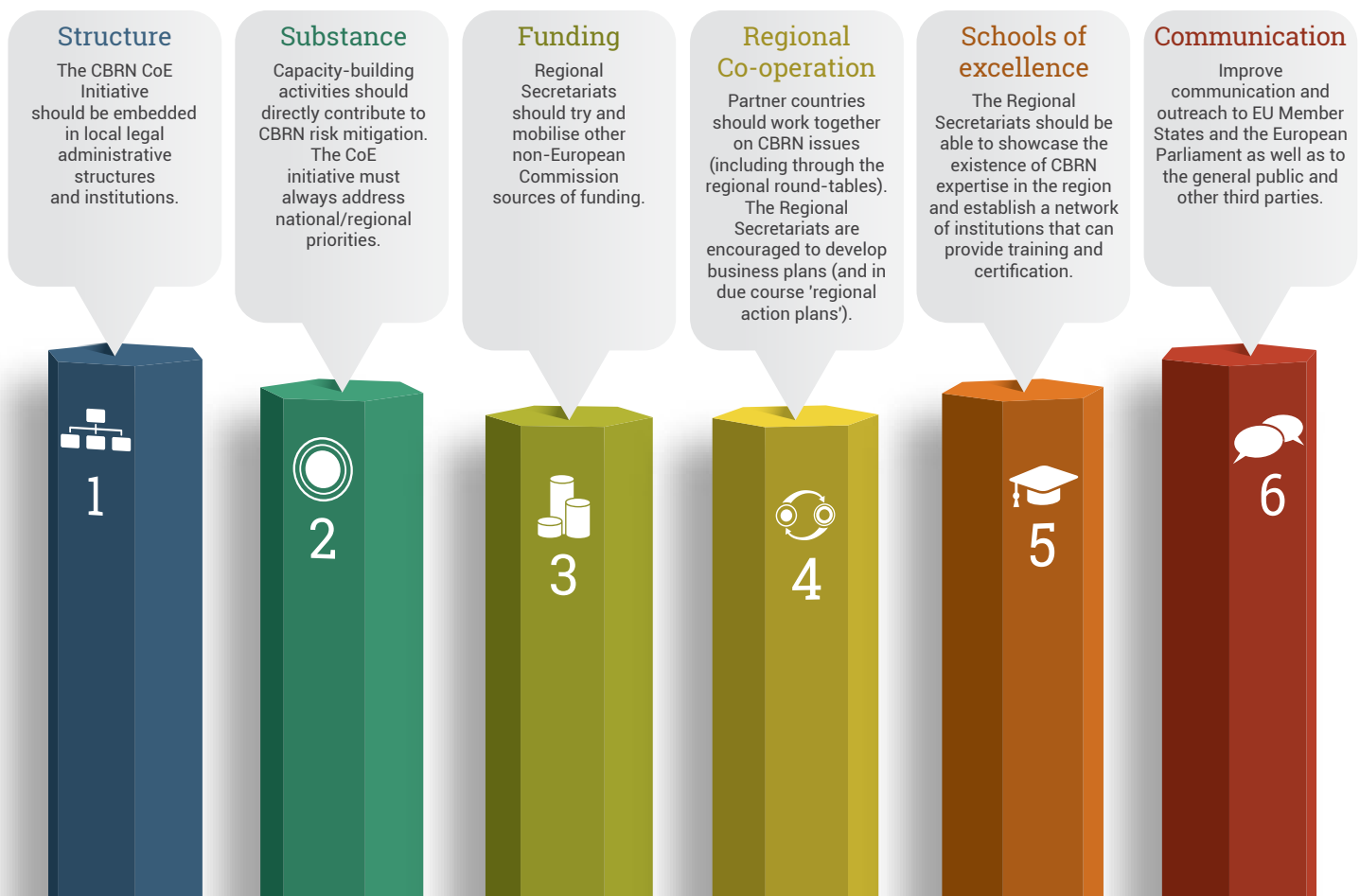
The meeting, which brought together participants from the eight CoE regions, DG DEVCO, UNICRI, DG JRC, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Governance Team, was considered a success. The Heads of Secretariat presented the state of activities in each of their regions. The meeting also provided an opportunity to have a first discussion on how to ensure the sustainability of the EU CBRN Centre of Excellence Initiative. The Heads of Secretariat underlined the importance of engaging local experts in

project activities, as an important venue of ensuring sustainability. Both DEVCO and the EEAS encouraged the Heads of Secretariat to ensure the strategic relevance of the Regional Secretariats, by developing projects and activities which are useful for the partner countries and by strengthening the profile of the CoE initiative within the region. In particular, it was noted that Heads of Secretariat and National Focal Points (NFPs) could showcase the CBRN National Action Plans (in countries where they have been finalised) at regional or interna-

tional meetings. For instance, Kenya presented its National Action Plan at the G7 meeting in Germany in 2015. It was also discussed that the CoE network could be used to encompass other threats, which are closely linked to CBRN risk mitigation, such as falsified medicines and port security. It is hoped that in the future other donors will channel funds for CBRN risk mitigation through the Regional Secretariats, which would further contribute to the sustainability of the Initiative.

Pillars of sustainability

The following 'pillars' of sustainability were formulated at the meeting:



The 15 recommendations

The following recommendations were made, and will form the basis of follow-up actions in the CoE initiative:

1	Increasing the political visibility of the HoS and RS
2	Development of a regional strategy - in particular a “business plan” for the region- and expanding role of the HoS
3	Extension of the scope: a new role for the Round Tables
4	Logistical support to HoS and NFPs in the implementation of their daily activities and CBRN meetings
5	Reinforced local expertise in the CoE activities (such as projects)
6	New components in the training strategy: development of regional schools of excellence offering certified training
7	Enhanced intra- and inter-regional cooperation (e.g. meetings)
8	Development of Regional Performance indicators for improved analysis at the regional level
9	Additional risk assessment to reinforce findings drawn from the NAQ
10	Greater flexibility of NAQ-NAP tools to quickly adapt to changing priorities
11	Promotion of NAP visibility (among authorities and funding partners)
12	Identifying ways to implement NAPs’ priorities
13	Consultation with HoS and NFPs prior to validation of project reports
14	Regional mapping of CBRN activities, projects (EU and non EU) and pools of local experts
15	Development of a database of local experts/ institutions/ trainings/ projects results/ IOs



African Atlantic Façade

by Stefania Micucci and Mohamed Salami

CBRN Needs Assessment Lomé, Togo 7 - 9 July 2015

Togolese experts met in Lomé together with Mr. N'Ladon Casimir Nadjo, CBRN National Focal Point (NFP), and experts from the European Commission. Over the course of three days, experts from different ministries, state agencies, NGOs and private companies worked on the 294 questions intended to establish the status of Togo on various aspects of CBRN risk mitigation. Fruitful debates between the participants took place. The resulting document will serve as a basis for the development of a CBRN National Action Plan (NAP).

1st Workshop on the National Action Plan: Dakar, Senegal Dakar, Senegal 13 - 14 October 2015

The first workshop for the preparation of the NAP to mitigate CBRN risks was held in Senegal. The main objective of this first workshop was to identify relevant CBRN risks in Senegal by bringing

together the National CBRN team and national stakeholders along with international experts from UNICRI. Joint Research Centre (JRC) experts also attended the workshop. The two-day workshop, opened by the representative of the Minister of Environment, Mr. Cheikh Fofana, the CBRN NFP of Senegal, Ms. Fagamous Sy Diop, and the representative of the European Union Delegation to Senegal, was attended by more than forty participants, including other representatives from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Industry, the ARSN, the ASMAR, customs, IRCAD and the fire brigade.

Empowerment of National Teams - Côte d'Ivoire & Gabon 28 - 29 September 2015; 27 - 29 January 2016

Under the aegis of Mr. Rémi Allah-Kouadio, Minister of Environment, Urban Safety and Development of Côte d'Ivoire, a workshop on the Prevention and Response to accidents involving CBRN

materials took place in Abidjan in September. The workshop, organised by the Governance Team and coordinated by Dr. Kader Touré, CBRN National Focal Point, aimed at strengthening the capacity of the National CBRN Team of Côte d'Ivoire in the field of inter-agency coordination and cooperation in the event of a CBRN accident. The workshop responded to one of the actions identified by the country in its CBRN NAP. The NAP was developed with the support of UNICRI experts and officially presented on the occasion of the 7th Round Table meeting of NFPs in Abidjan in March 2015. From 27-29 January 2016, a Crisis Prevention and Management workshop was organised in Libreville, Gabon. The workshop, led by the Governance Team, aimed at providing high level representatives of the National CBRN Team of Gabon with complementary techniques of negotiation, inter-institutional coordination and cooperation. More than 40 representatives attended the workshop organised in the form of simulation exercises and scenarios drawn from real situations.



Cameroon joins the AAF CBRN CoE

December 2015 - February 2016

The Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Cameroon formally submitted its intention to join the CBRN CoE initiative by letter on 31 December 2015, nominating as its National Focal Points Ms. Anna Chantal Nama – Director a.i. of United Nations and Decentralized Co-operation Department of the Ministry of External Relations and Mr. Janvier Alima Atangana from the same department. Cameroon became the ninth partner country of the African Atlantic Façade Regional Secretariat based in Rabat, Morocco.

Nomination of a new National Focal Point

Benin
February 2015

Benin nominated Mr. Hermanne Marc Araba, Deputy Director of International Organisations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as new CBRN National Focal Point for the EU CBRN CoE Initiative.

Preparation of FALCON Exercise

Rabat, Morocco
20 - 21 January 2016

Morocco hosted the third and final preparatory meeting of the inter-Arab Nuclear Detection and Response Exercise "Falcon". In the preparatory meeting, aspects regarding the workshop programme, the exercise lay-out, logistical aspects and outreach activities were discussed. Delegations from Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Morocco as well as representatives of the IAEA and the World Customs Organization contributed to shaping the agenda. The CoE regional secretariats of Morocco (African Atlantic Façade), Jordan (Middle East) and Abu Dhabi (GCC region) were involved in the preparation. The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT), drawing on its extensive experience in running table-top exercises, provided the exercise design and the JRC contributed its expertise in the field of nuclear detection and response. The meeting resulted in a revised workshop agenda and exercise scenario which were approved by all participating parties.

9th Round Table Meeting of National Focal Points

Rabat, Morocco
17 - 18 February 2016

The 9th Round Table meeting of AAF CBRN National Focal Points was hosted by the Moroccan Civil Protection General Directorate. The meeting was attended by National Focal Points of the African Atlantic Façade Regional Secretariat, including Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Liberia, Morocco, Senegal and Togo. The meeting was an opportunity to introduce the On Site Assistance (OSA) expert who recently joined the AAF Regional Secretariat, and to present the technical support opportunities available to CBRN National Focal Points and CBRN National Teams. Furthermore, the meeting focused on exchanges between National Focal Points on strengths and weaknesses of the Initiative, expected results for the coming years, and on the drafting of a new regional project proposal. The new project "Improved regional management of outbreaks in the CBRN Centres of Excellence Partner Countries of the African Atlantic Façade" was also presented and the date of its official launch was discussed. National Focal Points also had the opportunity to meet current implementers of CoE projects.

The Ministry of Environment and the NFP of Côte d'Ivoire organised a workshop on Prevention and Response to CBRN accidents. Abidjan, 28-29 September 2015.





The National Team of Tajikistan meets to discuss first steps in drafting the National Action Plan. Dushanbe, 15-16 October 2015.

Central Asia

by Fanny Fert and Bakhtiyor Gylyamov

National Action Plan workshop Dushanbe, Tajikistan 15-16 October 2015

The workshop represented the first step in the development of a NAP for Tajikistan. The main objective of this workshop was to identify the relevant CBRN risks in the country by bringing together the National CBRN Team and other relevant stakeholders along with international experts from the EU CBRN CoE initiative. The two-day workshop, which was opened by the Deputy Director of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency (NRSA), was attended by representatives from the Tajik Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and UNICRI. The overall purpose of the NAP is to articulate a national vision for CBRN risk mitigation into a national CBRN action plan and to identify priorities for building capacity. The NAP – to be developed during a series of workshops – will be designed to ensure that separate efforts are incorporated into one coherent approach, thus strengthening national capacities for prevention, detection, preparedness and response to CBRN threats. The initiative also facilitates the identification and implementation of projects and ensures that capacity building is part of a coordinated and sustainable approach. The first workshop for the NAP in Tajikistan included an overview and discussion of the risk scenarios in each of the areas dealt with – chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear – in addition to a presentation

of the Needs Assessment Questionnaire results for the country (a part of the Centres of Excellence methodology).

Official nomination of the Head of Secretariat for Central Asia

According to a Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 2015, on “measures to organise the activities of the CBRN Centres of Excellence Regional Secretariat for Central Asia” the Director of the State Inspection “Sanoatgeokontekhnazorat”, Mr. Bakhtiyor Gulyamov was nominated as Head of the Regional Secretariat for Central Asia. The State Inspection Sanoatgeokontekhnazorat is the main partner and the hosting Institution of the Regional Secretariat.

Approval of Project 53

The project “*Strengthening the national legal framework and provision of specialised training on biosafety and biosecurity in Central Asian countries*” was approved in December 2015 and will be implemented by the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) based in Kazakhstan. This project was jointly elaborated by experts from the Central Asia region, JRC and UNICRI during a series of technical meetings and workshops held in 2015.

The overall objective is to enhance biosafety and biosecurity capacities within the Central Asia region by:

- raising awareness and promoting collaboration on biosafety, biosecurity, emergency response and incident management issues among national stakeholders and reducing proliferation risks through the advancement and promotion of safe and responsible conduct in the field of biological sciences;
- providing support for strengthening of national legal systems addressing biosafety and biosecurity and reinforcing biological non-proliferation principles, practices and instruments;
- building an inventory/ catalogue of available resources in participating countries to assess the existing means to better assess training needs, to provide training and to map facilities in view of optimising collaboration during the project and to improve quality management as well as sustainability after its conclusion;
- developing and implementing a regional self-sustainable training system for biosafety and biosecurity and improving curricula and methodologies of teaching, performing “Training of trainers” activities using activity based learning and introducing e-learning tools.

The duration of the project will be 36 months.



Eastern and Central Africa

by Alma Pintol and Joel Kamande



The Democratic Republic of the Congo holds its second National Action Plan workshop. Kinshasa, 30 September-2 October 2015.

National Action Plan workshop Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo 30 September - 2 October 2015

Following the request of the National Focal Point (NFP) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), UNICRI organised the second workshop in order to provide guidance to the country in the development of its National CBRN Action Plan (NAP). The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technology in Kinshasa. The meeting was opened by the Chief of Staff in the Ministry of Scientific Research, Mr. Florimond Nyamoga Kabanda. The NFP, Mr. Edouard Booto Bokonda, welcomed the participants and thanked the President of the Republic for his determination to protect the country and its population against the risks posed by CBRN material, thus contributing to the international community efforts in this area. Mr. Booto highlighted the important support provided by the Ministry of Scientific Research and Technology and presented the achievements that the Centres of Excellence in the DRC has so far achieved, in particular by raising awareness of CBRN risks among high level institutions. Regarding the NAP, Mr. Booto stated that this strategic document, which is meant to address prevention, detection and intervention in cases of CBRN incidents, also represents a valuable tool to identify vulnerabilities. The National Action Plan will guide the development and implementation of projects to mitigate CBRN risks. The workshop convened members of the DRC National CBRN Team, including several government ministries, departments and entities.

Workshop with Tanzanian key CBRN stakeholders Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 2 - 4 November 2015

In 2014 the Director-General of Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC), Prof. Iddi S. N. Mkilaha, was nominated as NFP for the CoE initiative. The meeting at Dar es Salaam was organised by the NFP's Office in collaboration with the Regional Secretariat for Eastern and Central Africa (ECA). Local CBRN stakeholders as well as the ECA Regional Coordinator attended the workshop which additionally presented an opportunity to introduce the DEVCO-nominated expert providing on-site technical assistance to the Regional Secretariat in Nairobi: Mr. Ram Athavale. Among the participants in the workshop were representatives of the Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (GCLA); the Ministry of Defence and National Service (MoDNS); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC); the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA); the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR); the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC), Dar es Salaam Zonal Office; the TAEC Arusha Office; the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS); the Tanzania Food and Drugs Regulatory Authority (TFDA) and the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (TPRI). The workshop was opened by the Director of Europe and Americas Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ambassador Joseph Sokoine. In his speech the Ambassador presented the Government's efforts to strengthen the legal and regulatory framework for mitigating risks associat-

ed with CBRN materials. The Ambassador encouraged and urged participants to identify gaps to be addressed and to recommend the best responses to address them in a sustainable manner. Furthermore, the UNDP Country Deputy Director participated in the event and in his statement expressed gratitude to the Tanzanian authorities for their constant support and commitment. In, particular he highlighted the crucial role played by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and of Communication Science and Technology. Mr. Osundina commended the National Focal Point and his team for their commitment to the Initiative.

Meeting with a new National Focal Point Kigali, Rwanda 9 - 11 February 2016

In January 2016 Rwanda nominated a new National Focal Point from the Ministry of Defence, Major Pascal Mungyangabe. On the NFP's request, the ECA Regional Coordinator travelled to Kigali to provide an update on the current developments in the CBRN Centres of Excellence and to jointly define a proposed path for Rwanda's engagement. With the support of the European Union Delegation to Rwanda, the Regional Coordinator organised a meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to re-engage the authorities and ask for more active participation in the activities of the Centre of Excellence. This visit to Kigali gave an occasion to introduce the National Focal Point to the UN Resident Coordinator in Rwanda, Mr. Lamin Manneh.



Gulf Cooperation Council Countries

by Hussein Alharthei

Saudi CBRN stakeholders met with EU CBRN experts Brussels, 1 - 2 February 2016

The workshop held in Brussels brought together eighteen Saudi representatives of several ministries and agencies involved in CBRN risk mitigation. The European Commission and regional secretariat representatives delivered presentations with the aim of familiarising the stakeholders with the structure and goals of the CBRN Centres of Excellence, as well as the role of the National Focal Point and CBRN National Team. The event also included and case studies in the fields of Chemical, Biological and Radiological and Nuclear risks. Each of the presentations provided an opportunity to discuss lessons learned and best practices in these fields, covering natural, technical and intentional risks. The RN case studies finished with a study visit to the SCK-CEN (the Belgian nuclear research centre) located in Mol, Belgium.



Middle East

by Adil Radoini
and Nasser bin Nasser

Regional Meeting of the Middle East National Focal Points

The 7th Round Table Meeting of the Middle East National Focal Points was held within the premises of the Middle East Secretariat in Amman on 26 October 2015. The morning session chaired by the Head of Secretariat, Al Sharif Nasser bin Nasser, was attended by the representatives of strategic partners from: the Middle East (Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon), the European Union (EU Delegation in Amman, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and several missions of the EU Member states in Amman), Australia, Canada, Japan, the United States and UNICRI. The meeting was an opportunity to inform the stakeholders of the concept of the CBRN CoE initiative, its objectives, structures and mechanisms.

A presentation by Al Sharif Nasser was delivered as well as a speech by the representative of the EU Delegation in Amman, Mr. Gonzalo Jorro Martinez, on behalf of the Head of the EU Delegation in Amman. Mr. Adil Radoini, the CoE regional coordinator for the Middle East, introduced the importance of coordination between local stakeholders and international actors involved in the CBRN risk mitigation field: in particular, the



Lebanese National Team members discuss CBRN scenarios at the NAP workshop in Beirut, 8-9 September 2015.

work done by the National Focal Points and National Teams of the Middle East countries, through the EU CBRN CoE, in order to identify capacities, needs and priorities should be capitalised on, in order to create synergies, to optimise resources and to avoid duplications. The representatives (the CoE National Focal Points) of Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq delivered presentations and speeches on their developed capacities in relation to the CBRN risk mitigation and the efforts to identify needs and priorities.

The meeting on October 26th was concluded with the presentations of two CoE projects. The first was given by Mr. Werner Knapp of BAFA (the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control) on the project "Export Control Outreach for Dual Use Items" which is implemented in Jordan in coordination with the United States Export Control and related Border Security (EXBS) program. The second project presentation was delivered by Col. Janusz Kocik, of the Polish Military Institute for Epidemiology (MIHE) and by

Ms. Simona Cavallini, project manager at the Italian FORMIT Foundation, on the project "Strengthening capacities in CBRN event response and in chemical and medical emergency". The Round Table Meeting continued on 27 October to discuss a future project and the modalities of its implementation.

NAP workshop in Lebanon 8-9 September 2015

The CBRN National Team of Lebanon gathered with representatives of the Joint Research Centre and UNICRI in September 2015 at the Grand Sérail in Beirut to undertake the first phase of implementation to draft the CBRN National Action Plan (NAP). The National Action Plan drafting built on the results of the Needs Assessment Questionnaire (NAQ) previously undertaken. During the first NAP workshop, the NAQ was reviewed and updated. Several ministries and agencies participated and gave their important contributions to the development of the NAP that will be submitted to the Government for endorsement.



North Africa and Sahel

by Kheira Bradai

Official opening of the Regional Secretariat for North Africa and Sahel in Algiers

The inauguration of the Regional Secretariat of the European Union (EU) Centres of Excellence for Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation for North Africa and Sahel was held in Algiers on 17 December 2015. The official ceremony was chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, HE Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, and the Minister of Interior and Local Communities, Prefect of Algiers, Mr. Nouredine Bedoui. Mr. Marek Skolil, Head of the EU Delegation to Algeria, Ms. Cindy J. Smith, Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime

and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Mr. Adriaan van der Meer, Unit Head at the European Commission's DG DEVCO, Mr. Bruno Dupré, European External Action Service (EEAS) representative, Mr. Tahar Melizi, and national representatives for Major hazards, together with ambassadors representing the partner countries in the region, participated in the event. HE Mr. Ramtane Lamamra and Mr. Bedoui, as well as EU and UNICRI representatives declared that the establishment of the CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat in Algiers is praiseworthy as it brings together four different elements: Algeria, the UN, the EU and the countries in the region and allows these countries to take action in the highly

sensitive field of awareness raising and preparedness to CBRN risks. They also highlighted that this accomplishment is promising with regard to human resources, training, resource mobilisation, cooperation and partnership, both at the regional and international level, for strengthening security aspects and neighbourhood policy relating to counter-terrorism and border protection in CBRN risk mitigation. In addition the EU and UNICRI representatives thanked the Algerian Government for helping to facilitate the creation, opening and functioning of the Regional Secretariat that will strive to reinforce regional capacities in the areas of prevention and management of CBRN risks.

Official opening ceremony of the CBRN Centres of Excellence Regional Secretariat for North Africa and Sahel countries Algiers - 17 December 2015

"The setting up of regional secretariats in eight regions of the world forms a solid basis for the coordination of activities undertaken by the Centres of Excellence Initiative. Since 2010 over 50 projects, whose funding amounts to about € 150 million, have been implemented. They aim at: a coherent and comprehensive approach covering legal, regulatory, scientific and technical aspects; the building and strengthening of regional and international networks and partnerships; the optimisation of national and regional capacity; and at addressing CBRN regional needs. In your region, the first approved projects, such as MediPIET and Medilab-secure in the fields of biosafety and epidemiology, or in the area of dual use of chemical products, were launched. Other project proposals are being evaluated. The participation of your experts in the regional round table meetings allows you to define together your priorities for cross-border activities. A new major regional project to strengthen CBRN border controls is being drafted with your experts and we hope to see it start in 2016."

Adriaan van der Meer
(European Commission - DG DEVCO)

The NAS Regional Secretariat opening ceremony, from left to right: Mr. Adriaan van der Meer, Mr. Nouredine Bedoui, Ms. Cindy Smith and Mr. Ramtane Lamamra.



International Cooperation

Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) Meeting of Experts

Geneva, Switzerland

10 - 14 August 2015

The SEA Regional Coordinator (Ms. Maria Eugenia de los Angeles Rettori) attended the Meeting of Experts of the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting focused on the following: how to strengthen implementation of Article VII, including consideration of detailed procedures and mechanisms for the provision of assistance and cooperation by State Parties; cooperation and assistance with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and assistance under Article X; and review of developments in the field of science and technology related to the Convention, focusing on advances in production, dispersal and delivery technologies of biological agents and toxins. Ms. Rettori delivered a presentation on the CBRN CoE Initiative explaining its objectives, network and projects including the Needs Assessment Questionnaire and National Action Plan.

CBRNe Summit Asia - Promoting National Action Plans in SEA

Singapore, 2 - 4 December 2015

At this event, different governments, nations and international organisations' response to CBRNe and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) threats were discussed. Trends and future threats were analysed in order to outline the peculiarities of new challenges that would characterise the industry in coming years. The event provided knowledge-sharing of specific systems and tools to combat WMD and CBRNe risks through presentations and practical demonstrations concerning the most modern research and technologies, carried out by major national and international sectorial companies. The first two days focused on the sharing of the current status, prospects and future developments in security and defence against unconven-



Workshop panellists at the CBRNe summit Asia. Singapore – 2-4 December 2015.

South East Asia

by Maria Eugenia de los Angeles Rettori
and Oscar Valenzuela

tional risks. The third day was dedicated to a panel on the "CBRN National Action Plans in South East Asia" led by National Focal Points (NFPs) for South East Asia of the following countries: Cambodia; Myanmar; the Philippines (represented in this case by the Philippines National Police); and Viet Nam. Ms. Rettori gave an overview of the EU CBRN CoE and outline of the National Action Plan (NAP). The panellists shared their country's experience in the formulation of the NAP and its contribution in improving CBRN risk mitigation capacity.

Meeting of the States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention Side Event

Geneva, Switzerland

16 December 2015

The opening remarks of the side-event entitled "Putting Biosafety and Biosecurity under the Microscope: Elements for an International Approach to Reinforce Capabilities and Address Future Risks" were delivered by Ms. Cecilia B. Rebong,

Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and other international organisations in Geneva, Mr. Tristan Simonart, DG DEVCO and Mr. Francesco Marelli, UNICRI.

The Philippines, as one of the leading countries of the Initiative, shared its experience in developing and adopting a NAP for CBRN risk mitigation. Colonel Jose Embang Jr., NFP of the Philippines, explained how the CBRN NAP, developed in cooperation with UNICRI, is an essential instrument to identify a country's priorities and areas where capacities need to be enhanced. As a result, the NAP provides the basis for the development of tailored projects and facilitates synergies between different response actors and suitable international donors. The event provided an opportunity to discuss some key elements for the development of an international approach to address present and future bio-risks. Different perspectives converged on this topic thanks to the contributions of the following policy-makers advisors from government, industry and academia.





ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM

The Republic of the Philippines and the European Union co-chaired an Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on

“Raising awareness and promoting ARF cooperation on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation”



The Republic of the Philippines and the European Union co-chaired an Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on “Raising awareness and promoting ARF cooperation on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation” in Makati City, Metro Manila, on September 9 and 10, 2015. The workshop brought together 82 participants from the ASEAN member states, the European Union, Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand and the USA as well as the from the ASEAN Secretariat, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Health Organization and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). During the two days, participants from different government agencies had the opportunity to follow presentations of experts from international organisations, as well as to present their engagement in CBRN awareness-raising and cooperation and exchange ideas on best practices in these areas, while exploring possibilities for an even stronger cooperation in the future. Part of the programme was a panel discussion on the EU CBRN CoE Risk Mitigation initiative, moderated by UNICRI and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. Mr. Oscar Valenzuela, Head of the Regional Secretariat, was a panellist together with National Focal Points (NFPs) and experts from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam. Among the topics discussed were the structure of the EU CBRN CoE Risk Mitigation Initiative (Regional Secretariats, NFPs, National CBRN Teams), the CBRN Needs Assessment Questionnaire, National CBRN Action Plans, CBRN awareness-raising and the experience gained from the involvement in the implementation of 21 CBRN CoE projects. Mr. Valenzuela stated in his closing remarks that the workshop objective had been accomplished as awareness on the subject of CBRN risks had been raised further in the region. He encouraged participants to continue the collaboration and even to expand respective awareness.

Written by Robert Frank

Regional Cooperation Officer for South-East Asia – Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (European Commission, DG DEVCO), Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines

South East Asia NFPs participated in a panel discussion at the ARF workshop.



South East and Eastern Europe

by Francesco Miorin and Givi Amiranashvili

Moldova: 1st workshop on National CBRN strategy

6 - 7 October 2015

The first workshop on Moldova's National CBRN Strategy was held in Chisinau, Moldova at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration. The meeting was aimed at reviewing the draft Moldovan National CBRN Strategy and at discussing further steps for the strategy's finalisation and adoption. Experts from the EC JRC and UNICRI participated in the two-day meeting, together with the Head of Secretariat, members of Moldova's National CBRN Team and representatives from the UNSC 1540 Group of Experts, the OSCE, VERTIC and the US Embassy in Chisinau.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: meetings with stakeholders

15 - 16 October 2015

The UNICRI Regional Coordinator travelled to Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet with several stakeholders relevant to the EU CBRN CoE. In particular, Mr. Miorin met with Ms. Ivana Kušić (Assistant NFP) and with Ms. Amira Arifović-Harms from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss further activities of the EU CBRN CoE in the country.

Georgia: participation in PPRD East 2 Project Meeting

22 October 2015

The UNICRI Regional Coordinator participated in the second Country Advisory Meeting within the framework of the EU-funded project *Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters in the EaP Countries (PPRD East 2)*. The meeting brought together several Georgian institutions and agencies dealing with emergency management and disaster risk reduction, and was devoted to discussing further steps of the project's implementation in Georgia.



Ukraine's first CBRN stakeholders meeting. Kiev, 23 February 2016.

Georgia: meeting with the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission

30 October 2015

Regional Secretariat staff met with representatives from the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (US NRC). During the meeting, information was exchanged regarding respective activities, in particular NRC's International Regulatory Development Partnership (IRDP) and the Radiation Source Regulatory Partnership (RSRP), two US-led international cooperation activities aimed at strengthening regulatory control over radiation sources. For further information on the IRDP or the RSRP, please visit:

- <http://www.irdp-online.org/>
- <http://rsrp-online.org/>

Ukraine: first CBRN stakeholders meeting

23 February 2016

The first CBRN stakeholders meeting was held in Kiev, Ukraine. The meeting was organised by the Administration of State Border Guards of Ukraine, in close cooperation with the European Commission and the Tbilisi Regional Secretariat. The meeting brought together representatives from relevant ministries and state agencies of Ukraine, and was

aimed at introducing the Initiative and at discussing further participation of Ukraine in the Initiative, with a focus on the establishment of Ukraine's National CBRN Team. The meeting was attended by representatives of DG DEVCO, Tbilisi Regional Secretariat and the OSA Experts Team.

Ispra: workshop "Protection of CBRN facilities: EU and Serbia share best practices on their CBRN action plans"

3 - 4 February 2016

The workshop "Protection of CBRN Facilities: EU and Serbia share best practices on their CBRN Action Plans" was held at the JRC facilities in Ispra, Italy. The workshop, funded by the European Union and organised by the Joint Research Centre (JRC), was attended by members of the National CBRN Team of Serbia, JRC and EU experts, the Head of Regional Secretariat and National Focal Points of other countries in the region. During the workshop, potential synergies between the EU CBRN Action Plan and the National CBRN Action Plan of the Republic of Serbia were discussed. Furthermore, some risk scenarios were presented and discussed (chemical dispersal, radiological dispersal), with a view to identifying response measures and to compare the EU and Serbia's CBRN Action Plans.



Nuclear Safety, Security and Safeguards Management - University Master's Programme

by Bojan Tomic
and Christine Tomic



The project, implemented by ENCO, was carried out in Bangkok, Thailand at the Chulalongkorn University. The two-year Master's was taught to 20 students in South East Asia. It was ensured that the programme was integrated in both the regional and global network of nuclear safety and security, with the aim of creating a pool of qualified professionals in these disciplines in South East Asia. This was of specific relevance for less developed countries where local expertise was seen to be significantly lacking.

The course consisted of theoretical and practical modules in the field of nuclear security and safeguards as well as radiological and nuclear safety, including modern concepts of CBRN risk reduc-

tion. Students were awarded scholarships to cover stipends, insurance and accommodation. The design of the course followed current EU and international practices, and all key topics were addressed both in a classroom environment and through practical exercises supported with laboratory visits and experiments. In their Master's thesis, students were guided in the selection of a topic to ensure its relevance to nuclear security, but also to address specific challenges countries (and regions) are facing. The implementor's team was comprised of experienced EU professors and human resource specialists in nuclear security who made regular visits that included interfaces with the students, coaching and advice. The team also closely interacted with the faculty, providing advice and sharing ideas on how to improve the course. A

series of guest lectures by highly qualified professionals in the field, and field visits to relevant sites, were organised as part of the course. All of the modules were taught in English: for students who lacked English language proficiency, additional language support was provided. The course pass rate was high, with 18 students receiving a fully recognised (scientific) Master's degree (Diploma) in nuclear security, and 2 students receiving Certificates. All 18 students graduated in the last quarter of 2015, following the required defence of their thesis but also the presentation of a scientific paper at a conference of international standing. About one half of the students returned to their organisations, where several assumed new duties specifically related to nuclear security. All in all, one could conclude that the project has made a substantial contribution to improving nuclear security in South East Asia, in particular in those ASEAN

countries where there was practically no previous expertise in nuclear security. With the students graduating, most of the project objectives were achieved. Nevertheless, an additional objective of the project was to establish an alumni network where the (former) students will be in close contact with each other, thus creating a new branch of the South

East Asia network on nuclear security. To this end, the project implementer, together with Chulalongkorn University designed a structure that consists of an information-sharing web site, an alumni association (with its by-laws) as well as a Facebook page for keeping the network up-to-date and allowing students to contact each other.

This is expected to help ensure the longer term sustainability of the project and enhance transfer of knowledge on nuclear security between the project's participating countries. It is hoped that this network will also grow in the future, to become a highly useful information sharing tool among nuclear security professionals in the region.

Quotations

Sunchai Nilsuwankosit | Supervisor of the Master Program

"For me, the programme is a good initiative to encourage the agencies related to NSS in the region to learn and cooperate in their efforts regarding CBRNe threats."

Lyheng Tan

"In my opinion, this master course helps my country and other ASEAN nations to assure availability of experts and training in relevant disciplines including nuclear safety, security and safeguards. Moreover, it helps our ASEAN nation to strengthen human resources development which can then link and collaborate to deal with CBRN threats."

Neil Raymund D. Guillermo

"The course is beneficial not only to the individuals who participated but also to the institutes and countries from where the participants came from."

Vuthy Khun

"This programme's success relies on a very good cooperation between the faculty of engineering at Chulalongkorn University, research institutes and other relevant international organisations involved in the application of nuclear technology for civilian peaceful use which have an interest in industries, hospitals and agriculture utilizing radiation and nuclear materials."

Petchara Jitbanjong

"I have gained knowledge related to Nuclear security and Safeguard and also, I had a chance to learn about new equipment and new technology."

Sandy Tith

"Connections and networks with other students and professors [gained through this course] are crucially important, as they will be very useful in the long-run for the development of this sector in my country."

Madihah Mujaini

"[Coming from] different countries with different backgrounds creates a good environment for studying through sharing knowledge from different perspectives; furthermore the lecturers with their expertise helped us understand the subjects, and the practical activities at Laem Chabang Megaport exposed us to real, on-site situations."

Phanousone Phouyavong

"My experience in this programme was good, very helpful to me and my country. It taught me new things about nuclear security and safeguards. Also this initiative operates in many ASEAN countries and has partnerships with [relevant] organisations."

Ninh Giang Nguyen

"The Master of Science Program in Nuclear Technology is a great opportunity for the ASEAN young generation to learn about the Nuclear Security and Nonproliferation field and its contribution to global peace."

Alim Mardhi

"[A strong point] of this programme was practical study in laboratories and short courses held by a competent authority."



Project News

Project 30

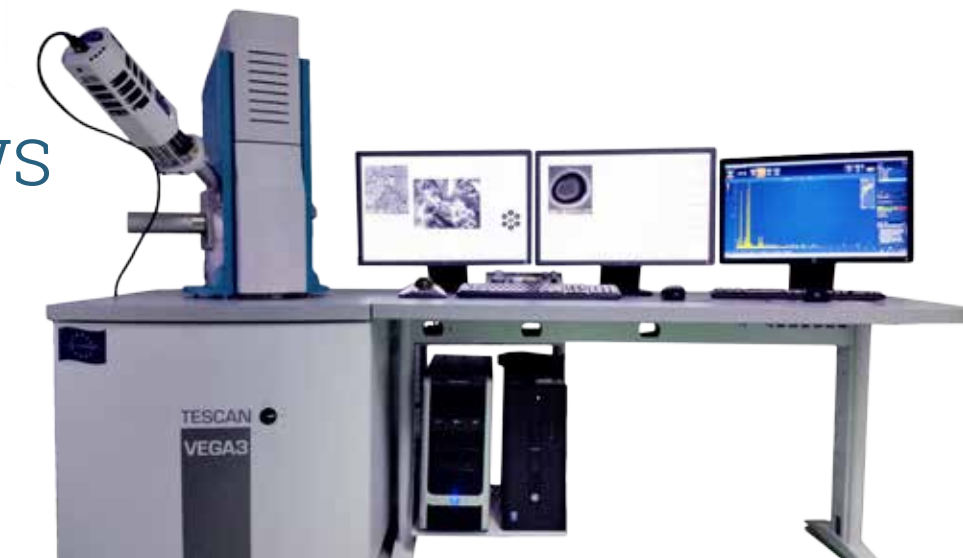
Network of excellence for nuclear forensics in South East Asia

South East Asia

In the framework of this project, the Office of Atoms for Peace in Thailand was provided with a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). The instrument was delivered and installed in October 2015 and it entered into operation in December. Prior to instrument delivery, the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) provided training in SEM to two experts from Thailand at its EU-SECTRA training centre, with particular focus on sample preparation and the interpretation of results in the context of nuclear forensic investigation.

Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova (GUAM)

The JRC hosted two training sessions at its EUSECTRA training centre. In January 2016, 15 representatives of GUAM organisations involved in nuclear security participated in a course on "Radiological Crime Scene Management". The course aimed at bringing law enforcement and nuclear measurement experts together and encouraging their cooperation in processing a crime scene which is (or suspected to be) associated with radioactive material. Self-pro-



The Scanning Electron Microscope delivered to Thai experts under a CoE project.

tection, evidence collection, evidence management, contamination control, initial identification of the radionuclides and radiological assessment were the primary topics of this one-week course. The course included presentations, experience reports, discussion sessions and – most importantly – hands-on exercises based on realistic scenarios involving nuclear material. Experts from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (US), the Ministère de l'Intérieur (FR), Europol, Netherlands Forensic Institute (NL), Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz (DE) contributed to the agenda.

A training course on High Resolution Gamma Spectrometry was held for 11 participants from national nuclear research centres and radiation authorities of GUAM countries in February 2016. The training agenda included theoretical lessons for example on principles of

radiation detection and types of gamma detectors but also practical exercises in which different gamma spectrometry software were applied, detector capabilities were compared, and isotopic compositions of uranium and plutonium samples were determined. At the end of the training course the participants categorised and characterised unknown samples using the knowledge gained during the week.

Project 33

Strengthening the national CBRN legal framework and provision of specialized and technical training to enhance CBRN preparedness and response capabilities

Over the last year, following data collection on national and international legislation, field missions have been



Participants in a workshop on nuclear forensics.



Trainees are often first responders including firefighters, police and emergency medical providers.



Participants gather as part of a CBRN response demonstration.

carried out in each country to address the legal framework component of the project. The data collected will be used to strengthen the national CBRN legal framework with a focus on developing a coordinated regional approach for strategic trade control, and will include a one-week study visit in Brussels, as well as regional seminars to be organised in the African Atlantic Façade and in the Eastern and Central Africa regions. Regarding the CBRN preparedness and response capabilities component of Project 33, 2015 has seen two national trainings held in each partner country. The main objective of the first session was to train commanders and to put an emphasis on risk analysis, decision making and inter-agency cooperation (between civil protection, firefighters, police, emergency medical services). The training proposed best practices through the presentation of case studies and exercises. From October 2015 to January 2016, a second training session was organised to train first responders likely to respond in the event of a CBRN incident, teaching them how to respond as part of a multi-agency team with priority given to preserving and protecting life as well as minimizing the impact of such an incident. The training was practical in nature, and featured demonstrations of CBRN kits and Personal Protective Equipment as well as outdoors exercises and simulations. Next year will be dedicated to drafting (or improving) National Emergency Plans to be evalu-

ated through simulation table-top exercises and live play.

Project 34 Strengthening capacities in CBRN event response and related medical emergency response under strengthened CBRN event preparedness

Factory acceptance tests (FATs) for supplying a first responder unit with basic CBRN equipment took place from 23-26 October 2015. Equipment testing was carried out by national delegations appointed by Project 34 partner countries (Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon). Testing was performed at the Lubawa facilities in Grudziadz, Poland, as well as those of IBATECH and INDRA in Madrid. Following completion of these tests, the equipment will be shipped to the 3 partner countries and a follow-up course for first responders will be arranged on how to use and maintain the kit. This will enable a primary response unit, comprising 20 responders fully kitted out with protective suits, to detect, identify and decontaminate chemical, biological and radiological substances. Another key aim of the project consists of training users in operating procedures for CBRN events; these courses are envisaged for 2016. In the last six months Fondazione FORMIT has organised two main training activities on "Knowledge development and transfer of best practice on inter-agency CBRN response". The first

one took place in Amman (for Jordanian and Iraqi stakeholders) and in Beirut (for Lebanese stakeholders) at the end of July 2015. The 3-day course aimed at providing middle management and staff (about 20 participants per country) some insights into interagency cooperation on 3 specific topics: Preparedness regarding biological events and border control; Response to chemical incidents and health systems; and Communication and cooperation. The second training activity was organised from 1-3 December 2015. A delegation of 18 directors and policy makers from the Middle East Region was invited to Rome to visit 3 Italian institutions operating in the CBRN domain: the Firefighters' School of Operational Training (Montelibretti), the "De Bernardi" air force base and the 7th defence regiment "Cremona". The Insubria Center on International Security (ICIS) organised three training sessions in February 2016 on "hazardous chemical agents (including warfare)". The courses aimed to provide awareness related to natural, accidental and intentional hazardous chemical accidents. These trainings represented an important opportunity to expand the knowledge of participants, sharing their experience, ideas and best practices adopted in their own countries. The consortium has approved selected chemical reconnaissance equipment and a preliminary training plan. The Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology will organise a series of "train-the-trainers" sessions for Jordanian, Lebanese and Iraqi experts in April 2016. The training is aimed at national experts that can act as trainers of medical response teams in the future.



Chemical decontamination demonstration given by an Italian defence regiment.

Project 35

Management of Hazardous Chemical and Biological Waste in the African Atlantic Facade Region and Tunisia

Over the last 6 months, four Phase 2 launches were held in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Tunisia, while training began in Morocco. These launch missions brought Phase 2 Experts and local stakeholders together to agree precise details of the training courses and awareness raising events that will take place during 2016-2017. They also acted as a platform to present Phase 2. During this period, Project Experts met with over 200 national stakeholders and visited over 20 laboratories. In addition, Experts visited waste sites of national concern. The Liberia Launch in July was particularly rewarding after several postponements due to outbreaks of the Ebola virus. The team visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the Project with Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Integration, Mr Thomas Kaydor. The Deputy Minister welcomed the project team warmly and expressed his enthusiasm for co-operation with the EU. Presentations were given to over 30 stakeholders in hazardous chemical and biological waste-related fields. The following day, workshops were held to agree details of training and awareness-raising events. No site visits were possible due to a

fresh outbreak of Ebola in the Firestone District, however. Later that month, Côte d'Ivoire brought over 60 stakeholders to the Phase 2 launch conference and workshops. Experts visited Hospitals, Laboratories and the infamous Akouédo waste site where much of the Probo Koala waste was deposited. In Senegal around 30 stakeholders attended the Phase 2 launch and welcomed the project team with their famous 'Terranga' (meaning hospitality). In November, around 50 Tunisian stakeholders participated in the Phase 2 launch event. Experts were able to visit Laboratories and Hospitals including the Principal Military Hospital of Tunis, a leading establishment in instruction and teaching. The project team has also secured contracts for individual members of local support teams in Partner Countries. Contracts have been signed in Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal and the aim is to secure more in remaining Partner Countries soon. This system of individual contracts seeks to improve efficiency and organisation of missions through local ownership at the organisational level. "Training for Trainers" missions also began in Morocco comprising 4 workshops on Laboratory certification.

Project 36

Development and Consolidation of Mediterranean Programme for Field Epidemiology Training (MediPIET)

Training events

A total of 99 facilitators have worked together with the MediPIET Team in the training activities and a total of 280 professionals (fellows and external participants) have been trained and have actively participated in following training activities:

- A Project Review module (in Albania) was devoted to developing presentation skills. Participants were encouraged to identify significant elements of their work to be delivered in an oral presentation or poster at an international conference.
- A Training of Trainers (ToT) session (in Montenegro) was aimed at familiarising participants with the MediPIET curriculum, and strengthening the network of field epidemiologists participating in the MediPIET training activities.
- An Introductory Module (in Montenegro) was dedicated to investigating a potential outbreak and to propose public health recommendations. These include surveillance and the analysis of surveillance data; the design of an epidemiological study; the examination of associations between exposures and outcomes, while taking into account bias, confounding and effect modification; communicating results of field investigations to various stakeholders, including scientific writing; understanding and applying International Health Regulation (IHR) principles.

A total of 280 professionals (fellows and external participants) have been trained and have actively participated in the above mentioned training activities. A

total of 99 facilitators have worked together with the MediPIET Team in these training activities: 80 in the Modules and 19 in ToTs.

The work of the MediPIET fellows was coordinated by the MediPIET Scientific Coordinators, in consultation with the MediPIET supervisors. Eight fellows have been trained in the first group of the MediPIET programme whereas the second group has expanded to accommodate a total of 16 fellows.

Training sites

Four new MediPIET Training Sites have been opened in 2015, in Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia respectively. Two Training Sites have been evaluated – in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – with both receiving a positive overall assessment. The work and achievements of fellows at the Training Sites were also reviewed. The participation of the countries in the project's training activities is enthusiastic, with the training courses being in high demand. The fellowship programme is very much appreciated and Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Palestine have stressed their willingness to participate in the programme, which in practical terms means hosting a MediPIET Training Site and fellows.

Project 42

Chemical Safety and Security in the Central and Eastern African Region

The principal activity of the first phase of Project 42 was a series of Fact Finding Missions (FFMs) to the Partner Countries (PC). Ahead of the FFM, extended questionnaires were distributed to the PC in early June 2015.

The first FFM took place in the Seychelles in June, followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya and Ghana in the subsequent months. Due to the confusing and very tense security situation in Burundi, the NFP of Burundi – as well



MediPIET Annual Scientific Conference. From left: Dr. Shaban Mameiti (Director of Institute for Public Health of Macedonia), EU Ambassador Aivo Orav, Karl Ekdahl (ECDC), Anne-Sophie Lequarré (EC JRC), and José Jaime de Domingo Angulo (MediPIET Team Leader – FIAAPP).

as three additional Burundi CBRN experts – were invited to a joint meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. Rwanda has officially been excluded from project 42 by DG DEVCO in November this year. The main objective of all FFM was to facilitate meetings between the respective country's National Focal Point (NFP), CBRN experts and other stakeholders. During these meetings, representatives of the European consortium presented the project in general and explained all work packages in detail, describing the working methods especially, as well as timelines and the benefits for participating countries. Another focus of the meetings was on presenting and explaining the project's detailed questionnaires concerning technical – as well as legal – aspects of hazardous chemicals. The questionnaire on legal aspects was filled with information collected during the inventory phase of CoE project 33 and was submitted for feedback and review to the national teams prior to the respective meeting. In addition, local chemical and legal experts, subcontractors, were introduced by the NFP to the consortium representatives. The steering committee meeting was held 12 October 2015 in Nairobi. It was the second meeting with the head of the secretariat after the kick-off meeting in April 2015. The engagement of local supporting expertise in the implementation of the project was addressed as one of the main points of the meeting. In general, all participants agreed on the implementation procedures with respect to involvement of local experts as well as organisation of seminars and workshops.

Project 43

Export control programme for dual-use goods

For their first visit to Algeria on 15-16 February 2016, the experts of project 43 "export control programme for dual-use goods" met the members of the Algerian Interinstitutional Committee for CBRN risk mitigation in the offices of the CoE Regional Secretariat for North Africa and Sahel in Algiers. It is worth mentioning that the export control of dual-use commodities and technologies in the European Union legally rest with its member states on the basis of a Council regulation. In particular, the regulation defines the various types of export licenses and establishes the list of dual-use goods. The controls apply to all exportations to territories outside of the European Union. The programme will allow the partner countries to:

- identify national strengths and weaknesses with regards to export control capacity through the assessment of the maturity of its strategic trade control system;
- define the support and training needed to close the identified gaps;
- establish and/or strengthen the relationships with neighbouring countries if needed;
- take into account the specific conditions linked to border control;
- benefit from legal support for the drafting of legal and regulatory documents, upon request.





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About CoE

The EU Centres of Excellence on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation (CBRN CoE Initiative), launched in 2010, is an initiative of the European Union (EU).

The initiative addresses the mitigation of and preparedness against risks related to CBRN material and agents. The origin of these risks can be criminal, accidental or natural. The Initiative seeks to boost cooperation at regional and international levels, and to develop a common and coherent CBRN risk mitigation policy at the regional level. Risk mitigation comprises prevention, preparedness and post-crisis management.

The initiative is implemented and funded by the European Commission (DG DEVCO) in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre (EC), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and a governance team. The European External Action Service (EEAS) is providing a strategic overview. The Initiative is implemented with the technical support of relevant experts from EU Member States, International Organisations and other experts.

For more information visit CBRN CoE website at: www.cbrn-coe.eu or send us an e-mail at: cbrn-coe@jrc.ec.europa.eu

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