



CBRN

**Centres
of Excellence**

An initiative of the European Union



CBRN CoE Newsletter

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The importance of coordination and being prepared for an event at a national level in the field of CBRN risk mitigation should not be underestimated. The fragmentation of responsibilities within a country or region during a CBRN event can have dramatic consequences. This was one of the motivational factors for the creation of the CoE.

In the two years since we started the CoE we have achieved a considerable amount and have received positive recognition from many quarters: UN Security Council, G8 Global Partnership and an endorsement at the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul to name but a few.

We still have a long way to go, if the CoE is to be a true EU platform for CBRN Risk Mitigation, as indeed we want it to become, our words need to develop into concrete actions. It was with this in mind that we held the first EU stakeholders conference in Brussels on 14-15 May 2012 to discuss and engage with both current and potential partners. The voices from the conference highlighted the fact that we need to adopt a clear strategy that can be translated into tangible actions in a transparent manner. We are already working in 40 countries

and the EU has approved 30 projects that will be implemented this year.

There is however a need for increased synergy amongst our partners to avoid duplication of effort and to make the best use of limited resources. As such, we must continue to engage with as many stakeholders as possible within the CBRN arena and encourage them to participate in an active way, by at the very least the nomination of points of contact to ensure a continued effective and efficient method of information exchange between all those involved. We need to map existing programmes and activities underway in International Organisations, Partner Countries and the EU itself, with the aim to better coordinate efforts.

The CoE Initiative can be seen as a new organisational principle in international affairs that aims to move from discussion to practical engagement. It is with this idea that we must now move forward and, following the successful conference in Brussels, the next step in the process will be the engagement of more potential partners at our conference at the United Nations in New York at the end of June.

Michael Thornton

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CoE conference	2
Focus on pilot projects	4
Meetings in partner countries	6
Nuclear Security Summit, EU-ASEAN, UNSCR 1540	8
Policy updates	9
Upcoming events	10

CoE EVENTS

CoE Conference: What concrete role for EU stakeholders

150 representatives from the EU Member States, International Organisations, Non State Actors, the U.S. and Japan participated in the first CoE conference on 14-15 May in Brussels

“European Union Member States must respond to the threat of the misuse of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear materials, otherwise known as CBRN and that to support this process, the EU has developed a European Action Plan on CBRN security, and within the framework of the EU Instrument for Stability, the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence designed for partner countries outside the EU”.

The opening words of Mr Dominique Ristori, the Director General of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre at the opening of the first conference of the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative (further referred to as the CBRN CoE) held in Brussels. He went on to acknowledge



Mr Dominique Ristori (second from left) Director General of the Joint Research Centre opening the conference

that the creation of the CBRN CoE had been welcomed by the United Nations Security Council during the President's speech to the Security Council in April and had been presented to the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weap-

ons and Materials of Mass Destruction in January earlier this year in Washington.

The conference held in Brussels on the 14-15 May 2012 brought together 150 participants and was organised with the aim to inform all of those present of the achievements and future challenges of the CBRN CoE and to explore concrete ways for EU stakeholders to be involved in its implementation. Those present included representatives from the European Union Member States (EU-MS), the U.S., represented by Ambassador Bonnie D. Jenkins (Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs, the U.S. Department of State), Japan, represented by Mr Taisuke Mibae (Director, Non-Proliferation, Science and Nuclear Energy Division, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Japan), non-state actors and international and regional organisations working in fields related to CBRN risk mitigation.

Mr Kristian Schmidt, Director of Human and Society Development at EuropeAid underlined the commit-



holders and EU partners?

ment of the EU through the implementation of the EU Instrument for Stability which funds the CBRN CoE with around 100 million EUR for the 2007-2013 period, in mobilising national, regional and international resources to develop a coherent CBRN policy at all levels, thereby aiming to ensure an effective response.

Mr Rudolf Roy, Head of Division for Security Policy and Sanctions at the European External Action Service (EEAS), underlined the importance of coordination and preparedness at national levels in the field of CBRN risk mitigation and pointed out that the fragmentation of responsibilities within a region could have dramatic consequences. Mr Roy explained that the EU Instrument for Stability took into account a new political environment since the 2003 WMD Strategy, including the creation of the EEAS. He also emphasised that an incoherent response would broaden the impact of



a CBRN incident and that was why the EU, with the political support of the EEAS, was putting in place a framework providing for cooperation and

coordination between all levels of government and international partners.

The participants to the conference were supportive of the aims, concepts and approach of the CBRN CoE and recommended that it should be highly inclusive, reaching out to civil society, academia and industry as well as international organisations and governments.

The importance of creating synergies with other partners outside of the EU, (e.g. the U.S. and Japan) was stressed by Ambassador Bonnie D. Jenkins in order to avoid duplication of effort and wasting resources. She suggested the thorough mapping of existing CBRN programmes and activities carried out by the EU, its member states, international organisations and working groups, and to find a mechanism for effective information sharing amongst these actors. The importance of cooperation was emphasised by Mr Taisuke Mibae during his presentation where he explored possible methods of cooperation between Japan and the CBRN CoE.



Michael Thornton responding to Ambassador Bonnie D. Jenkins from the U.S. Department of State (third from left) and Mr Taisuke Mibae from the Foreign Ministry of Japan (second from left)

EU CBRN RISK MITIGATION CoE PROJECTS

Focus on pilot projects

The first two pilot projects implemented in the South East Asia region in the framework of the CBRN CoE began in 2011 and are about to finish. Technical areas of these projects are nuclear forensics (pilot 1) and biosafety and biosecurity (pilot 2)

The CBRN CoE is an initiative where the majority of effort and funding will go towards the development and implementation of tailored projects in partner countries. Due to the concern regarding illicit nuclear trafficking and the increased use of biotechnologies throughout the globe, it was decided to launch the first two pilot projects in areas that cover these aspects.

Capacity building in countering illicit nuclear trafficking

When an incident involving the illicit trafficking of radiological or nuclear material occurs, the correct response procedure needs to be un-

dertaken to protect the public, safely retrieve the material whilst preserving and managing the crime scene in an appropriate manner so as to allow the possibility of prosecution. The seized material will then undergo analysis to characterise it with the aim of identifying where it originated. The Institute for Transuranium Elements (ITU) in Karlsruhe, Germany, an institute of the European Commission, has been developing for many years an expertise in this specialised form of forensic analysis and is recognised worldwide. It was therefore no surprise that the head of the nuclear forensics department from ITU, Klaus Mayer, was asked to lead this first pilot project of the CBRN CoE. This project aims to build capacity in nuclear forensics in selected countries in the South East Asia region (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam). On completion of the project, these countries will have improved their capabilities to handle cases of illicit nuclear trafficking and will have enhanced the possibility of successful prosecution of those involved in this form of trafficking.

The activities of the project included an assessment of the existing national capabilities, an awareness building workshop on nuclear forensics and a seminar on the development of a national response plan. These events were organised in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the DSO National Laboratories (Singapore's national defence R&D organisation) and were attended by decision makers in regulatory authorities, law enforcement and response organisations from the participating countries. The workshop and seminar underlined the need to establish a basic level of nuclear forensic capability in order to ensure a proper follow up of illicit trafficking incident and the importance of coordination amongst the different national authorities involved.

The two events were followed by a seminar on non-proliferation nuclear forensics focusing on the technical aspects of nuclear forensics. This was held under the auspices of the ASEAN Regional Forum in December 2011 in Bangkok. It was jointly organised with the NNSA and brought to-



Participants to the seminar on non-proliferation nuclear forensics, December 2011, Bangkok, Thailand



gether approximately 60 participants from 12 countries from the region, the ASEAN Secretariat, the Interna-



Klaus Mayer, JRC-ITU, project leader

tional Atomic Energy Agency and experts from Australia and the Ukraine.

The seminar aimed at establishing and describing the core capabilities in nuclear forensics. In April, hands on laboratory training on core capabilities took place in the European Commission's Joint Research Centre Institute for Transuranium Elements. Representatives from the participating countries in South East Asia learnt about the basic characteristics of nuclear material, the use of hand held equipment, crime scene management and other practical aspects. A follow up project is being considered in the framework of the CBRN CoE. The project is part of a coordinated approach aimed at establishing a common response to strengthen

the non-proliferation regime and counteract the threat of nuclear and radiological terrorism.

Project summary

Title: Capacity building in countering illicit nuclear trafficking

CBRN area: nuclear forensics

CBRN CoE region: South East Asia

Countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

Leader: European Commission's Joint Research Centre, Institute for Transuranium Elements in Karlsruhe, Germany

Partners: the U.S. Department of Energy (DoE), National Nuclear Security Administration, Singapore DSO National Laboratories, ASEAN Regional Forum

EU contribution: 375 000 EUR

Reinforcement of legislation, regulations and laboratory management systems

Biosafety is an important issue in South East Asia as the investment in biotechnology is assuming greater significance in the region's economy, bringing with it more scientists and laboratories to support research and industry in the biosciences. This project's overall objective is to promote a culture of biosafety and biosecurity through the sharing of knowledge between the EU and selected countries in South East Asia in order to gain a common understanding of the main biosecurity and biosafety concepts. In order for the results of a project to be sustainable, local ownership is of the utmost importance. Based on this concept, the leader of the second pilot project, Professor Maria Rita Gismondo from "L. Sacco" University Hospital in Milan set up a Working Group composed of

experts from European and South East Asian countries where the project was to take place, i.e. Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. The Working Group focused on collecting and mapping existing International and European regulations and standards on laboratory biotechnology, biosafety and biosecurity. This was followed by an analysis of the regulations in force in the participating countries. With this knowledge, the Working Group then visited a number of bio laboratories in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. Following the visits and using the knowledge gained previously, the Working Group was able to perform a gap analysis and identify areas that could be strengthened. A series of recommendations will be made to the participating countries and further projects are being developed on the basis of this one. A further 5 countries in South East Asia

have expressed their interest in participating in this type of project and work will begin there in the latter half of this year.



Meeting of the Joint Working Group, October 2011, Milan, Italy

Project summary

Title: Biosafety and biosecurity, reinforcement of legislations and regulations and laboratory management systems

CBRN area: biosafety, biosecurity

CBRN CoE region: South East Asia

Countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand

Leader: L.Sacco University Hospital, Milan, Italy

EU contribution: 375 000 EUR

NETWORKING

Meetings in Partner Countries

During the first half of 2012 the CBRN CoE team members continued to organise and participate in meetings and workshops with partner countries

Regional workshop on illicit trafficking of radiological and nuclear materials

The year began with the successful regional workshop on illicit trafficking of radiological and nuclear materials and promoting regional EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative (CBRN CoE), organised in partnership with the Government of Kenya and held in Nairobi on 19-20 January 2012.

The first day of the workshop was dedicated to illicit trafficking of radiological and nuclear materials; during which the results of the non CBRN CoE project on "Illicit Trafficking and Export Control of CBRN materials in Sub Saharan countries", carried out from December 2009 until March 2012, were presented. In the framework of this project fact-finding missions were carried out in Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa to identify needs and priorities in the area of CBRN risk mitigation.

The CBRN CoE Initiative was introduced during the second day of the workshop. The event brought together more than 70 participants including representatives from many countries of the region (Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Zambia), organisations (African Biolog-

ical Safety Association (AfBSA), African Union, Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA), International Agency for Atomic Energy (IAEA), ISS Africa, Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), World Health Organization (WHO), CBRN CoE team members (DEVCO, EEAS, JRC, UNICRI) and representatives of the EU Delegation to Kenya.

The event was reported by the media, see article at: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2012-01/20/c_131371042.htm#

Bilateral meetings

Between February and June 2012 the CBRN CoE team members met with representatives of the government, institutions and agencies dealing with CBRN risk mitigation from Albania, Armenia, Cambodia, Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Moldova, Morocco, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Serbia and Uzbekistan. For the first time, the CBRN CoE team members have been invited to participate in bilateral meetings in Gabon, Mauritania, Senegal and Turkmenistan with representatives of these partner countries who recently expressed their interest in the CBRN CoE.

Meetings were organised to present the objectives, structure and the overview of the CBRN CoE, explain procedures and methodology for submitting project proposals, explain the role of CBRN national teams and CoE regional secretariats, including discussions on the progress made by countries in setting up their CBRN national teams. Additionally, available communication tools such as the private portal were demonstrated.

Several meetings dedicated to the upcoming openings of CoE regional secretariats have taken place in host



Participants at the regional workshop on illicit trafficking and promoting regional EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative, Nairobi, Kenya, 19-20 January 2012



Participants at the first CBRN CoE bilateral meeting in Albania, Tirana, 7 February 2012



Participants at the awareness raising workshop in Thailand organised at the Ministry of Health and its Department for Medical Research, Bangkok, 2 March 2012



Participants at the first CBRN CoE bilateral meeting in Turkmenistan, meeting at the Academy of Sciences, Ashgabat, 3 April 2012

countries. In February and April meetings were held at the Office of the President, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the UNDP Office in the Philippines. This was followed by visits to Georgia and Morocco.

Awareness raising workshops

In-country workshops on awareness raising with regard to the importance of the CBRN national team (inter-agency coordination and communication) and the benefits of the CBRN CoE Initiative (technical projects and policy support) were organised in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand. During these workshops participants representing various institutions and agencies dealing with the CBRN risk mitigation could assess relevant needs of their countries, discuss and prepare project proposals.

CBRN Governance workshops

Workshops on CBRN governance were organised in several partner countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, the Philippines and Serbia.

The objective of the workshops was to introduce the concept of the CBRN governance and the importance of inter-agency coordination at a national level. Participants to the workshops had the opportunity to discuss different aspects of the CBRN governance with regard to the situation in their respective countries, also through practical case studies and exercises.

For more information on the CBRN CoE meetings visit our website: <http://www.cbrn-coe.eu/NewsArchive.aspx>

MULTILATERAL MEETINGS

Nuclear Security Summit, EU-ASEAN and UNSCR 1540



2012 Nuclear Security Summit. The EU was represented by H. Van Rompuy, the President of the European Council and J. M. Barroso, the President of the European Commission

Seoul Nuclear Security Summit

Herman Van Rompuy, the President of the European Council reported on the CBRN CoE Initiative in his statement at the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit held on 26-27 March 2012. "Our latest initiative - the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence - will enhance institutional capacities of selected countries and regions against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks. 70 million euro will be spent in 2012-13 to benefit 62 countries in eight regions, including Central and West Africa, the Maghreb, the Middle East, the Gulf, the Caucasus, and Central and South East Asia."

The Summit Leaders in their Communiqué noted the importance of efforts of initiatives like the CBRN CoE. "Recognizing that investment in human capacity building is fundamental to promoting and sustaining a strong nuclear security culture, we encourage States to share best practices and build national capabilities, includ-

ing through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. At the national level, we encourage all stakeholders, including the government, regulatory bodies, industry, academia, nongovernmental organizations and the media, to fully commit to enhancing security culture and to maintain robust communication and coordination of activities. We also encourage States to promote human resource development through education and training. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of Centers of Excellence and other nuclear security training and support centers since the Washington Summit, and encourage the establishment of new centers."

Statement by the President of the European Council, 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ec/129258.pdf

Seoul Communiqué: http://www.thenuclearsecuritysummit.org/userfiles/Seoul%20Communiqué_FINAL.pdf

EU-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of the European Commission accompanied by the Foreign Ministers of EU MS and Foreign Ministers of the 10 ASEAN MS and Secretary General of ASEAN met in Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei Darussalam on 26-27 April 2012. The participants discussed possibilities to enhance political dialogue and cooperation between EU and South East Asia. One of the outcomes of this meeting was the adoption of the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017) covering a wide range of areas including political/security. In terms of the political and security cooperation, EU and ASEAN agreed, inter alia to "promote cooperation in mitigating risks associated with CBRN materials, and facilitate transfer of technology, exchange of expertise and physical or legal instruments, best practices and

DOCUMENTS



Policy updates

capacity building through CBRN Centre of Excellence in Southeast Asia in accordance with the respective domestic laws and policies on the matter.”

Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ue-docs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/129884.pdf

Workshop on the UN Security Council Resolution 1540

CBRN CoE Initiative was presented at the workshop on the implementation of UN SC Resolution 1540 organised by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre in co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) held on 5-6 June 2012 in Lithuania.

The EU considers WMD proliferation is a threat to international peace and security and as such supports the full implementation of UNSCR 1540 and subsequent resolutions.

However, signing and ratification is not enough and for the resolution to be implemented effectively, it requires the monitoring of international verification regimes where they exist (e.g. IAEA, OPCW). Where these watchdogs do not exist (e.g. export control) the only way is through outreach and here the CBRN CoE can help, particularly in the use of the CBRN CoE network and the CoE regional secretariats. Although the aims and objectives of the CBRN CoE present strong similarities to those of the UNSCR 1540, a major difference lies in the approach adopted. Resolution 1540 is a binding document obliging States to comply with its provisions to establish and implement certain basic minimum standards whereas the CBRN CoE Initiative seeks to involve States on a voluntary basis as partners.

April 2012

United Nations Security Council: Statement by the President (S/PRST/2012/14, 19.04.2012)

At the 6753rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 April 2012, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security", the President on behalf of the Council welcomed "the establishment of the European Union CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence".

http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_pres_statements12.htm

March 2012

Thematic Strategy Paper 2012-2013 for assistance in the context of stable conditions for cooperation under the Instrument for Stability (Commission Implementing Decision of 19.03.2012, C(2012) 1649 final)

The aim of this strategy, as explained in the summary paper, is to ensure the consolidation, continuity and sustainability of actions, rather than aiming at a major overhaul. One of the focuses of the new strategy will remain the support to international efforts to mitigate chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) risks, whether natural, accidental or criminal.

Summary: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/ifs/docs/ifs_2012_13_strategy_en.pdf

Full text: http://www.eeas.europa.eu/ifs/docs/ifs_2012_13_strategy__annex_en.pdf

March 2012

Council six-monthly progress report on the implementation of the EU Strategy against the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (2011/II) [OJ C 66/6, 6.3.2012]

The six-monthly progress report covers activities carried out in the second half of 2011 in the context of the implementation of the WMD Strategy adopted by the European Council in December 2003. Information on activities related to CBRN threat mitigation including the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CBRN CoE) is available in Point 5 and Annex II of the report.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:52012XG0306%2801%29:EN:NOT>

March 2012

Council Decision 2012/166/CFSP of 23.03.2012 in support of activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (OJ L 87/49, 24.3.2012)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>

Upcoming events

21 June 2012. CoE 4th Round Table Meeting with the CoE National Focal Points from the South East Asia Region, New York

21 June 2012. CoE Round Table Meeting with all CoE National Focal Points from the CoE Partner Countries, New York

22 June 2012. Conference on the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE at the United Nations Headquarters, New York

The CoE Initiative will be presented to the UN Member States and Permanent Observers. National Focal and Contact Points of the Partner Countries that have already joined the cooperation in the

framework of the CoE have been invited. Relevant international organisations belonging to the United Nations system and other international organisations will be also present.

9-13 July 2012. Advanced postgraduate course, Milan, Italy

Biological safety: Level 1, 2 and 3 lab procedures organised by the Laboratory of Clinical Microbiology and Virology "L.Sacco" University Hospital, Milan, Italy

16-20 July 2012. Biological Weapons Convention Meeting of Experts, Geneva

Special announcement

Congratulations to Marian De Bruijn (UNICRI CBRN CoE Project Coordinator) who gave birth to Joy Lisa on 6 June 2012. All the CBRN CoE Team wish the family well.

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Publications Office

About CBRN CoE

The EU CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence project (CBRN CoE), launched in 2010, is an initiative of the European Union (EU) with an EU contribution of 95 million euros. It is implemented jointly by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

This new initiative will address the mitigation of and preparedness against risks, either of an intentional, accidental or natural origin, related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials or agents.

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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