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CBRN

Centres of Excellence

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CBRN CoE Newsletter

Volume 6 - June 2013

The CoE is going from strength to strength. As of the 1st June we have 29 projects being implemented by 18 entities in 42 Partner Countries, with three new projects in the pipeline. The interest and the membership of the initiative has grown too, with now over 1300 registered members who are kept up to date by accessing the wealth of information on the secure portal and by this newsletter. In the last few months significant events and changes have taken place within the CoE. First, and most importantly two new Regional Secretariats have opened, in Manila and Rabat. Both these events were attended by ambassadors and high level representatives from the governments of a considerable number of countries. The official signing of the memorandum of understanding between the hosting countries and UNICRI was followed by demonstrations of the capabilities to deal with CBRN events. There was not only a significant level of interest at government level but also extensive reporting in the national press too. These Regional Secretariats are key to the success of the CoE, acting as the hubs in the regions and they demonstrate the real desire for

a decentralized initiative that utilizes local resources.

Along with these occasions, other events have taken place involving a significant modification of the way the CoE works. With 29 projects running simultaneously in so many countries there comes a risk of "project fatigue". Partner Country and implementer CBRN experts and infrastructure in some cases being stretched to the limit. To reduce this effect, projects will be financed and contracted as and when they are ready, and not in the batch like approach that was adopted at the beginning of the initiative. This should also allow projects to adapt to current needs and speed up the project process.

Last but not least, the 15-16 May saw the first meeting of the Heads of Secretariats in Brussels where there was a frank and honest exchange of opinions and thoughts from the regions. This event will be repeated periodically to ensure that the voice of the Secretariats is not only heard, but more importantly that the comments and issues raised are acted upon.

Kristian Schmidt
European Commission
Director DEVCO B

BREAKING NEWS

Opening of the CoE Regional Secretariat in South East Asia and in African Atlantic Façade
Read more on pages 7 and 10

New projects will be funded
Read more on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Interview with the new Head of Unit DEVCO B5	2
New and future projects	4
Meeting of Heads of Regional Secretariats	6
Focus on South East Asia	7
Focus on African Atlantic Façade	10
News from the Middle East Regional Secretariat	12
Cooperation in other regions	14
Upcoming events	16



Smartphone users can install an application with a QR-code scanner to read the code

Interview with the new Head of Unit DEVCO B5

Adriaan van der Meer, the new Head of Unit DEVCO B5 “Instrument for Stability, Nuclear Safety” shared with us his views on the CoE Initiative, recent developments and the future

Q Mr Van der Meer, you started working on the CBRN CoE at the European Commission from 1 September 2012. Could you say a little bit more about yourself?

A I have been working at the European Commission since 1988 and consider myself a privileged person. I had the opportunity to work at various services and private offices in Brussels, as well as in Cyprus, Central Asia and in Russia. Actually, since my time in Kazakhstan, I started to work on non-proliferation issues and global threats. I gained experience in managing complex programmes with UN organisations as implementing agencies. My work at ISTC in Moscow further deepened that experience with work at the crossroads between science and CBRN-related issues. Especially this work gave me the opportunity to understand the day-to-day challenges in this field. I visited many research institutions and other facilities in the former Soviet Union.

Q How do you see the current state of the CBRN risk mitigation initiative?

A I think that the initiative has reached a stage of maturity. Regional Secretariats are functioning, National Focal Points are being established and urgent needs are being addressed. Three Regional Secretariats namely Amman, Manila and Rabat are in operation and work in the other regions is also well under way. In addition, projects started since 1 January 2013 have added new momentum to the initiative. Project areas include awareness raising, CBRN waste management, capacity building, establishment of regulatory frameworks and other projects for example related to export and border control and illicit trafficking.

Q What are the next steps under the initiative?

A A number of additional steps are needed to further build on the achieved results and to allow the CoE to grow. National Teams play an important role in the execution of the programme. We need to further strengthen our outreach to these key players under the programme. That is why we will organise a meeting with them during the second half of this year. Moreover, we would like the role of the Round Tables to be extended to include discussion of issues of regional concern at expert level. The recent Round Table meeting held in Rabat was a good example of this approach. Experts discussed the issue of chemical waste leading to a concrete project proposal. We look forward to the first National Action Plans by the end of the year. We need to improve efficiency. In various partner countries needs assessments on CBRN activities have already been carried out

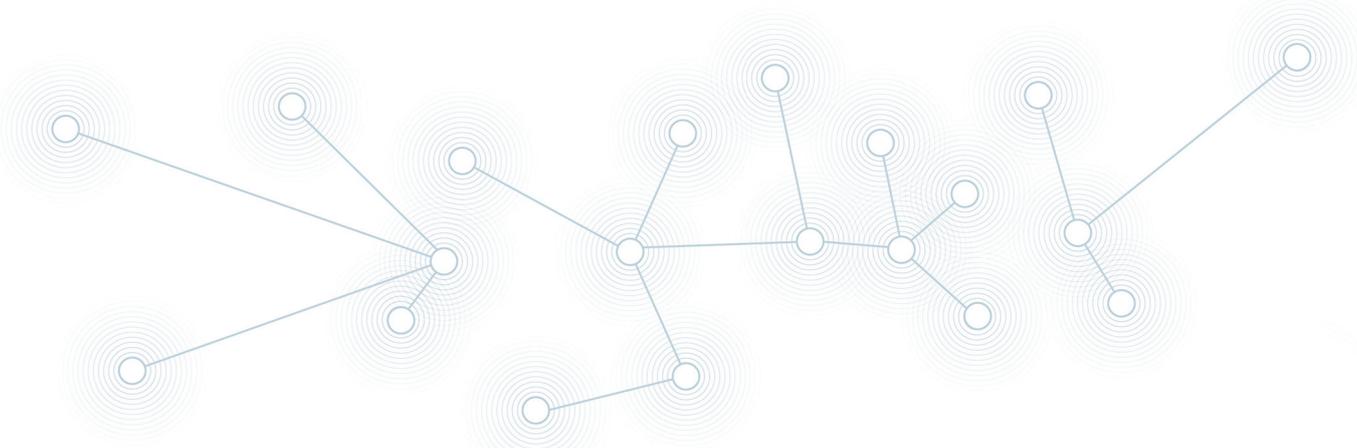
and we should avoid duplication, for instance, of work already carried out by various international organisations.

Q You mentioned the importance of projects under the CBRN initiative. What can be expected in the near future?

A Firstly, the EC has abandoned the so called batches approach. From now on, new projects will be launched on a case by case basis and will be contracted immediately. This is more efficient than waiting until a full batch of projects has been put together. We will gain time and participants in the call will not be overloaded. The EU Member States will be in charge of the implementation of the various projects. They will form consortia preferably with the direct involvement of experts from the partner countries. In some exceptional cases, we will ask international organisations such as WHO, and OIE to implement projects. Also here, important efficiency gains can be achieved. Regional Secretariats and/or National Focal Points will be able to submit project proposals during the whole year. By doing so, we have removed artificial barriers.

Q What is the latest news about the needs assessment tool?

A Let me first say that UNICRI – our contractor – did a good job in preparing the needs assessment tool. This instrument will now be further developed by the European Commission (JRC) in order to ensure its practical ap-



plication on a day-to-day basis. The tool will become more user-friendly and the aim is to make it fully electronic. Again, we should avoid overlap with already existing work. Our partners are aware of this and I expect all the work to be completed by September.

Q

What are the final words you would like to say to the readers of our newsletter?

A

I would like to say that I understand that work on CBRN issues is quite challenging because the work is multi-disciplinary, it involves many agencies and needs to be developed on a regional basis. Most issues in the field of CBRN can only be addressed efficiently at a regional level. Moreover, the CBRN approach deals not only with natural and industrial disasters, but also with criminal activities. Not all issues can be addressed at once and therefore there is a need for clear priority setting. This is for example what we have done in the Middle East. Furthermore, I would like the Round Table meetings to clearly define regional priorities to ensure that the programme remains on target. The EC looks forward to closely working together with its partners on all of these issues. Let me stress once more that the programme is demand-driven and that participation is on a voluntary basis. Lastly, let me recall the importance of the CoE portal that is updated on a daily basis in order to provide the latest information to our stakeholders.

Further information about DEVCO can be found here: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm



Prior to taking up duties as the Head of Unit within the Directorate-General Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid (DG DEVCO), Mr Adriaan van der Meer held the position of the Executive Director of the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC) in Moscow. In the past, he was involved in developing the relations between the EU and the various countries of the New Independent States, especially Russia. He was posted for the first time abroad in 2002 to Cyprus as Head of the Delegation of the European Commission. Subsequently, he worked in the same position as representative of the European Commission to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

? Glossary

› DG DEVCO

Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid is a Directorate-General of the European Commission responsible for designing EU development policies and delivering aid through programmes and projects across the world.

› DG DEVCO, UNIT B5

Unit B5 "Instrument for Stability, Nuclear Safety" within DG DEVCO is in charge of the implementation of the Instrument for Stability and the Nuclear Safety Co-operation Instrument. Within the Instrument for Stability, it is responsible for the overall implementation and management of the CBRN CoE Initiative.

› INSTRUMENT FOR STABILITY (IfS)

IfS is a strategic tool designed to address a number of global security and development challenges in complement to geographic instruments. Regulation (EC) N° 1717/2006 establishing the IfS constitutes the legal basis for the CBRN CoE Initiative implemented under its Article 4 "Assistance in the context of stable conditions for cooperation".

› NUCLEAR SAFETY CO-OPERATION INSTRUMENT (NSCI)

NSCI finances measures to support a higher level of nuclear safety, radiation protection and the application of efficient and effective safeguards of nuclear materials in third countries (non-EU). Since 1 January 2007, it replaces the TACIS Nuclear Safety Programme which had covered safety of nuclear installations in the New Independent States (NIS), created as a result of the break-up of the Soviet Union.

› INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER (ISTC)

ISTC is an intergovernmental organisation connecting scientists from Russia, Georgia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States with their peers and research organisations in Canada, EU, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway and the United States.

› WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

WHO is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations system. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters.

› WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

Intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide.

New and future projects

At present 29 projects are being implemented within the CoE Initiative in various CoE Partner Countries and across different technical areas. Additionally, the European Commission announced that it will finance three new major projects

Projects launched

The contracts for the majority of projects selected for funding in 2011-2012 have been signed and the projects were launched on 1 January 2013. Since then, five additional projects have started (they are listed below), bringing the number of on-going CoE projects to 29.

New procedure for project approval and guidelines

The European Commission (DG DEVCO) has decided to no longer use the so-called "batches" approach with regard to project selection and prioritisation, through which the funding decision was taken for a batch of project proposals twice a year, resulting in several projects being approved and contracted at the same time. From now on, new projects will be launched individually throughout the year, and will be put through a contracting procedure immediately once they are ready.

Projects approved for funding

Following the new approach, the European Commission approved two major projects for funding within the CoE Initiative. This time, a greater amount has been set aside for the implementation of individual projects. The European Commission announced that from now on it would focus on financing major projects in terms of the budget, scope and duration. The two projects, now under tendering procedure with the European Union Member States, are expected to commence in autumn 2013, once signature of contracts is completed with the selected contractors. The projects reply to specific requests coming from the Partner Countries in three regions and are described on page 5.



Sharing experience between EU and South East Asian countries on the reinforcement of legislations and regulations in the field of bio-safety and bio-security, as well as relevant laboratories management systems through Regional Centre of Excellence - phase 2 (project 12)

Countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and Vietnam

Implementer: France Expertise Internationale (FEI), France



Provision of specialised and technical training to enhance the first response capabilities (project 14)



CoE Region: South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine



Implementer: The European CBRNE Centre at Umeå University (UMU), Sweden



Establishing a national response plan in Ghana and Kenya for responding to unauthorised events involving CBRN materials (project 17)



Countries: Ghana, Kenya



Implementer: Government Chemist Department, Kenya



Capacity building and raising awareness for identifying and responding to threats from chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials in Sub Saharan African countries (project 13)



CoE Region: Eastern and Central Africa

Implementer: Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie, l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile (ENEA), Italy



Development of procedures and guidelines to create and improve secure information management systems and data exchange mechanisms for CBRN materials under regulatory control (project 19)



Countries: International
Implementer: Battelle - Pacific Northwest Division, Battelle Memorial Institute, USA



CHEMICAL



RADIOLOGICAL



BIOLOGICAL



NUCLEAR



Strengthening the national CBRN legal framework and provision of specialised and technical training to enhance CBRN preparedness and response capabilities (project 33)



CoE Region: African Atlantic Façade (Gabon, Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal), Eastern and Central Africa (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda)

Implementer: Tender procedure on-going

This complex project has two components – component 1 with the overall objective of strengthening of the CBRN national legal framework to comply with international obligations for mitigating CBRN risks, and component 2 – with the overall objective of providing specialised and technical training to enhance CBRN preparedness and response capabilities.



Strengthening capacities in CBRN response and in chemical and medical emergency (project 34)



CoE Region: Middle East (Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon)

Implementer: Tender procedure on-going

This project will be implemented with the overall objective to develop a comprehensive inter-country (Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon) and inter-agency structure for the coordination, establishment and implementation of CBRN incident response throughout the region. It will address national needs in the countries by improving the existing CBRN emergency response capacity and provide comprehensive technology solutions and training in prevention, preparedness and response.



A project is being developed based on initial proposals submitted by Partner Countries, and following discussions during the recent round table meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) in the African Atlantic Façade region in Rabat on 19 March 2013. NFPs and CBRN experts from Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia have been invited to identify the needs in the area of hazardous chemical and biological (hospital) waste management. On this basis, the European Commission will formulate a proposal for a regional programme to be implemented in the aforementioned countries that expressed interest in such programme, and identified their needs in the biological and chemical waste management. The countries have been invited to communicate their specific needs by the end of May 2013, and the tentative date for the start of this major regional project has been set for the end of 2013.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROJECT PROPOSAL?

Project proposals may be submitted on a continual basis at any time during the year without a predefined deadline. Project proposal form, available from the CoE portal, once completed must be submitted by the National Focal Point representing a Partner Country or by the CoE Regional Secretariat on behalf of the Partner Countries in the region to the functional mailbox at cbrn-coe@jrc.ec.europa.eu with copy to the Regional Coordinator.

HOW TO DRAFT A PROJECT PROPOSAL?

The European Commission (DG DEVCO) issued a set of "Guidelines for drafting CBRN CoE project proposals" available for download from the CoE portal. The document, designed for Partner Countries and CoE Regional Secretariats, provides necessary information on how to develop a complete project proposal. It also explains project evaluation process, and defines the eligibility and ranking criteria.

Meeting of Heads of Regional Secretariats

All those responsible for the task of coordinating the CoE in the regions met together for the first time on 15-16 May in Brussels

The first Heads of Regional Secretariats meeting for the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence (CoE) took place in Brussels on 15-16 May 2013. Over two days the nominated heads of the CoE Secretariats and regional representatives met with staff from the European Commission, three EU Delegations as well as UNICRI and the EU's External Action Service. For the first time, all those responsible for the task of coordinating the CoE in the regions met together. An overview was given on the state of implementation of the initiative and suggestions were discussed on the way forward for example with respect to the identification of topics of common interest for the region, format of the project selection procedure, the organisation of the regional round tables.

For the later item, the European Commission has asked the presence of technical experts at round tables discussions to facilitate the definition of common projects and facilitate in general the CBRN risk mitigation activities on a regional basis. Other tools were discussed such as methods on project identification following

the so-called "bottom-up" approach being one of the main principles of the initiative. As an example, there was strong interest from several regions in working on matters related to chemical waste. During the meeting the pivotal role of the Secretariat as the "enabler" of the CoE was stressed, along with recognition of the work carried out by National Focal Points (NFPs). Each Region made a presentation on the progress made on CBRN risk mitigation and shared, in a friendly atmosphere, interesting ideas and comments.

At present, Regional Secretariats have been successfully established in Rabat, Amman, and Manila with officially inaugurations in Manila and Rabat and the nomination of many NFPs and National CBRN Teams. The partners gave feedback on current work and made suggestions on improvement of working methods. EU Member State consortia and in some exceptional cases International Organisations (justified by a strong added value, cost efficiency and use of existing information to avoid duplication) will implement the new projects. These new projects will be longer (more than 2 years), larger (increased budget) and will be launched one-by-one (batch approach abandoned).



First Meeting of Heads of CoE Regional Secretariats

Clarification was given concerning the possibility for Partner Countries to participate in the projects as part of the consortia (partners, sub-contractors). Further feedback on the outcome of project selection was requested.

The European Commission reported that the Needs Assessment Tool will be ready within 3 months and the National Action Plan of 5 countries will be completed by the end of this year. Furthermore project definition must remain a "bottom-up" approach. The participants agreed to organise a meeting with all the NFPs. It is to be held later this year. Following the successful day of discussions and presentations a visit was organised at the Megaport facility in Antwerp harbour and to the JRC IRMM in Geel. Any additional information on this meeting can be obtained from Mr Tristan Simonart, European Commission. Tristan.Simonart@ec.europa.eu



The status of the initiative is discussed between the Heads of Secretariat, the European Commission, the European External Action Service and UNICRI

Focus on South East Asia

The Regional Secretariat for South East Asia, with the headquarters in Manila, was inaugurated on 6 March 2013

Opening of the Regional Secretariat

The opening ceremony of the CoE Regional Secretariat for South East Asia took place on 6 March 2013 at the Malacañang Palace in Manila, the official residence and principal workplace of the President of the Philippines.

The Malacañang Palace hosts the CoE Regional Secretariat within the offices of the Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center.

The opening convened 102 participants, including numerous representatives from the Government of the Philippines, the European Union (including the EU Member States, the European Commission, the Delegation of the EU to the Philippines), the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as well as other countries. The CoE Regional Secretariat was launched by the Honourable Executive Secretary of the President of the Philippines, Paquito N. Ochoa Jr.; His Excellency Ambassador Guy Ledoux, Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines and Director of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Dr Jonathan Lucas.

"Today's launch is a milestone in itself as the establishment of the CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat in Manila will see the development of a common and coherent risk mitigation policy both at national and regional levels", said Ambassador Guy Ledoux.

The host country of the Regional Secretariat was represented by the Honourable

Executive Secretary of the President of the Philippines, Paquito N. Ochoa Jr.; Honourable Undersecretary Michael Frederick Musngi from the Office of the Executive Secretary of the President, and Honourable Executive Director Oscar F. Valenzuela from the Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center who has been designated as the Head of the Regional Secretariat.

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Delegation of the EU to the Philippines issued a joint statement on the occasion, that was delivered by the Honourable Undersecretary Michael Frederick Musngi. In this statement both, the Philippines, and the EU expressed their support for the establishment of the CoE Regional Secretariat for South East Asia in Manila; they welcomed an active participation of all ASEAN Member States in the activities launched under the CoE, acknowledging the interest already expressed at the programming stage, and encouraged cooperation and coordination, under the auspices of the CoE, with other regional partners and with international organisations.

The opening included signature of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Honourable Executive Director Oscar F. Valenzuela and Director Jonathan Lucas, defining the technicalities and financial aspects of the set-up and functioning of the Secretariat.

After the group photo on the steps of Mabini Hall of the Malacañang Palace, the Special Rescue Unit from the Bureau of Fire Protection of the Republic of the Philippines under the leadership of Colonel José Embang Jr., the National Focal Point for the CoE Initiative in the Philippines, gave a demonstration of first response to a simulated chemical weapon attack.

The opening of the South East Asia Regional Secretariat in Manila has been reported widely; by the Office of the President, by the Delegation of the EU to the Philippines, and also in the press:

<http://www.president.gov.ph>
<http://www.eeas.europa.eu>
<http://www.eeas.europa.eu>
<http://www.journal.com.ph>
<http://businessmirror.com.ph>
<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com>
<http://www.sunstar.com.ph>



Executive Director Oscar F. Valenzuela and Director Jonathan Lucas signing the Memorandum of Understanding for the set-up and functioning of the Regional Secretariat

Round Table Meeting

National Focal Points (NFPs) meet on average every six months during round table meetings which offer an opportunity to discuss face-to-face issues of regional concern amongst Partner Countries in the region, demonstrate and present activities taking place in each Partner Country and exchange relevant information.

The first round table for the South East Asia region took place in November 2010.

Since then, the NFPs have met already five times, the latest - fifth round table was organised on 7 March 2013, in the premises of the Regional Secretariat, the day after the opening ceremony. It brought together 39 participants, including representatives from nine Partner Countries in the region; Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam; the EU and UNICRI.

For the first time, the round table welcomed a number of experts who are

project leaders, representing consortia in charge of implementing CoE projects in the region.

As a result of the on-going activities, 20 projects have been approved for the region and currently 18 are being implemented in various CBRN technical areas such as biosafety, biosecurity, nuclear forensics, radiological and nuclear security, waste management and illicit trafficking to list but a few.

Following a round of general presentations about the projects, a series of bilateral meetings took place; they were organised in such a way that each representative from the implementing consortium could meet with the NFP of the Partner Country where the project will be implemented.

Traditionally, the round table meeting included, a "tour de table" during which the NFPs gave an update on the recent developments in their countries concerning the CBRN risk mitigation including progress with regard to building National CBRN Teams.

The successful implementation of National CBRN Teams (composed of various relevant national entities having a stake in complementary aspects of the CBRN risk mitigation) is one of the objectives of the CoE Initiative. NFPs also provided comments and observations on the initiative. They noted that they were looking forward to see a positive outcome from the projects already approved before proposing new project proposals.

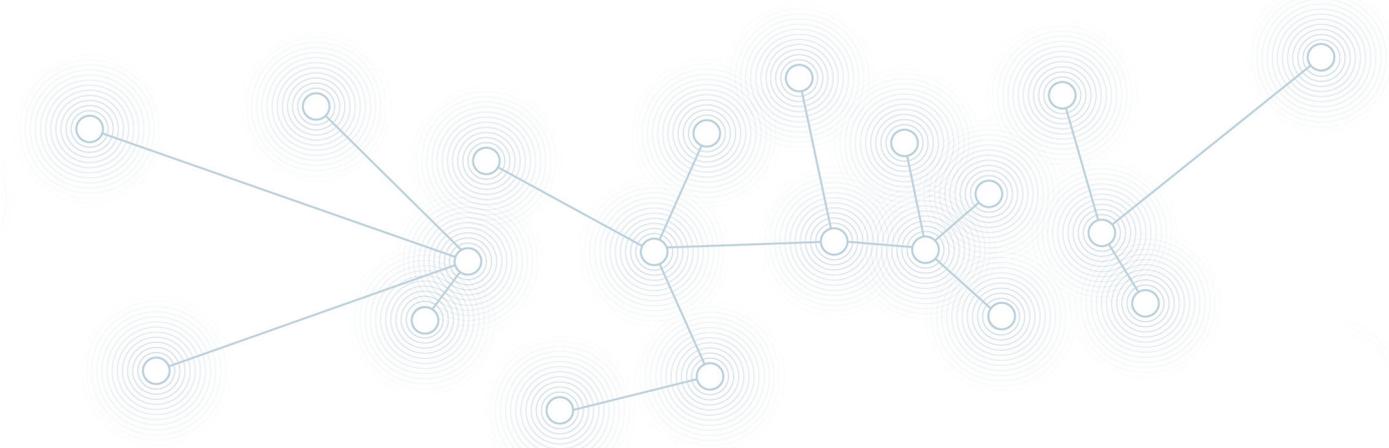
In general, there was a great deal of optimism and enthusiasm from the countries and their representatives.

Bilateral meetings

Between February and May bilateral meeting was organised in the Philippines, and in Myanmar.



The Special Rescue Unit from the Bureau of Fire Protection of the Philippines gave a demonstration of first response capabilities to a simulated chemical weapon attack. (Top right) Ambassador Guy Ledoux and Executive Secretary Paquito N. Ochoa Jr. enjoying the demonstration



Bilateral meeting in Myanmar, 12 March 2013

stakeholders in the CBRN risk mitigation. This meeting followed the first meeting in Myanmar concerning the CoE in March 2011, when the CoE team was invited by the Myanmar authorities, and visited Nay Pyi Taw to meet with the national CBRN experts at the Ministry of Science and Technology.

The seminar focused on explaining the CoE Initiative and describing the structure of the network emphasising the role of the NFP and the National CBRN Team. It also emphasised the importance of the regional coordination and the role of the recently opened CoE Regional Secretariat for South East Asia in Manila. In addition, the workshop introduced the concept of the needs assessment and the related Action Plan developed and implemented at national level by the Partner Country.

PHILIPPINES

Twenty-three participants including nineteen representatives from the Philippines were present for the workshop on 8 March 2013. Both the EU and UNICRI welcomed the opportunity to be present during the National CBRN Team meeting. The workshop was chaired by the NFP, Colonel José Embang Jr. Each of the departments forming part of the National CBRN Team, represented at the workshop, gave an overview of the work that they were involved in, highlighting their needs concerning CBRN risk mitigation.

MYANMAR

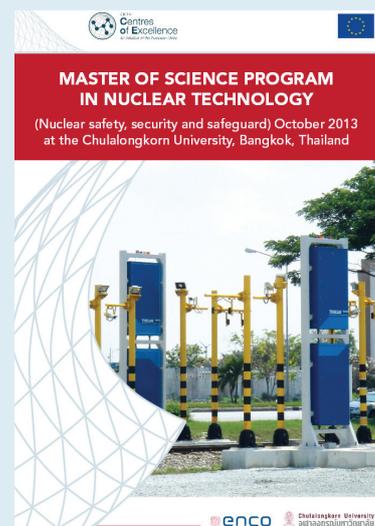
A one-day seminar on the CoE Initiative was organised in Myanmar on 12 March 2013 under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Technology, with the participation of more than 40 scientists and officials from various Ministries -



Bilateral meetings between Partner Countries and consortia implementing CoE projects in South East Asia during the fifth round table meeting in South East Asia, Manila, 7 March 2013

MASTER'S COURSE

Within the framework of the on-going CoE Project 29 "Regional Human Resource Development for Nuclear Safety, Security, and Safeguards Management through a University Master's Programme carried out in Thailand", the European Union is offering a full scholarship for 20 best-qualified students from the South East Asia region (10 from Thailand and 10 from other countries).



The Master's programme will be carried out by the Department of Nuclear Engineering at the Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. It is designed as a 2 calendar year course, consisting of lectures, laboratory work, practical exercise and a Master's Thesis. The Course aims at providing focused knowledge and practical experience in the field of nuclear security and safeguards as well as radiological and nuclear safety.

Deadline for the submission of applications has been set for 6 July 2013, and the course will begin in October 2013.

Further information including detailed description, entry requirements and application form is available at www.enco.eu and the CoE portal.

Focus on African Atlantic Façade

On the 19th March 2013 at the Headquarters of the Civil Protection Directorate in Rabat, Morocco, the Regional Secretariat for African Atlantic Façade was officially opened

Opening of the Regional Secretariat

The CoE Regional Secretariat for the African Atlantic Façade was opened on 19 March 2013 in Rabat, Morocco within the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Interior.

The event brought together high officials from the Government of Morocco; His Excellency Mr Youssef Amrani, Delegate Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; His Excellency Mr Nouredine Boutayeb Wali, Secretary General, Minis-



Opening Ceremony of the CoE Regional Secretariat in Rabat, 19 March 2013

try of Interior; Mr Abdelkrim El Yaagoubi, General Inspector of the Civil Protection; His Excellency Ambassador Eneko Landaburu, Delegation of the European Union to Morocco; European Union Member States representatives; the United Nations; Mr Aloys Kamuragiye, Acting Resident

Representative of the United Nations; the National Focal Points (NFPs) for the CoE Initiative in the Partner Countries of the African Atlantic Façade region (Gabon, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal); as well as other countries (Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Liberia, Togo and Tunisia).

The official opening was inaugurated by the opening speeches of the representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior of Morocco, the EU and the UN, and the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding defining the technicalities and financial aspects of the set-up and functioning of the Regional Secretariat. This was followed by a demonstration of first response to a simulated CBRN event given by the Moroccan Civil Protection.

Round Table Meeting

The third round table meeting of the NFPs for the CoE Initiative in the Partner Countries in the region followed the opening ceremony of the Regional Secretariat, and continued the next day. The Observer Countries present at the opening also attended the round table meeting.



Mr Abdelkrim El Yaagoubi, General Inspector of the Civil Protection Directorate in Rabat and Mr Francesco Marelli, Head of the CBRN Risk Mitigation and Security Governance Programme, UNICRI signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the set-up and functioning of the Regional Secretariat



In addition to the usual topics raised during round table meetings, such as recent updates on the initiative, state of the projects being implemented in the region, activities undertaken by Partner Countries in the area of CBRN risk mitigation and the roles and tasks of the key stakeholders and actors, this round table included a working session on new projects that could be developed and implemented in the region in the nearest future.

Discussions focused on the area of waste management (chemical and biological), an area that has already been identified by Partner Countries in their project proposals. The CBRN experts from the region participated in the discussions alongside with the NFPs. As an introduction to this working session, Ms Josephine McCourt from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM), gave a presentation about the management of hazardous chemicals and

wastes including important aspects such as awareness on the security concerns associated with toxic chemical waste materials; safe and secure management of procedures; sharing and transfer of best practices; sustainable training system; regional cooperation and harmonisation with international standards on the safe and secure management chemical waste. In her presentation, Ms McCourt also demonstrated how the management of hazardous chemicals is conducted in practice on an example of the research centre describing various components of the chemical management system i.e. chemical safety (applicable legislation, precautions, classification and labelling, chemicals procurement, inventories and storage locations), hierarchical responsibilities, hazard identification and risk assessment system and emergency preparedness.

Deliberations on the project proposals included updates on the current needs identified by Partner Countries in this par-

ticular area of chemical and biological waste management.

In the afternoon, the project working session was followed by series of bilateral meetings with Partner and Observer Countries, which provided an opportunity to discuss some specific bilateral issues.

Press articles referring to the opening of the CoE Regional Secretariat in Rabat and to the demonstration by the Civil Protection of Morocco are available from the local press at <http://www.map.co.ma>

Bilateral meetings

Bilateral meetings with relevant national institutions to facilitate Liberia's official participation in the CoE Initiative took place in Liberia on 8-10 April 2013.

New projects

The European Commission approved for funding a major project entitled "Strengthening the national CBRN legal framework and provision of specialised and technical training to enhance CBRN preparedness and response capabilities" (project 33). It will be implemented in two regions: African Atlantic Façade and Eastern and Central Africa.

In addition, following the round table in March, the European Commission took a decision to fund a major regional project in the area of chemical and biological waste management. The Partner Countries have been invited to communicate their specific needs by the end of May 2013, and the tentative date of the start of this major regional project has been set for the end of 2013.



First responders of the Moroccan Civil Protection force in action during a simulated CBRN event

News from the Middle East Regional Secretariat

Since the Middle East Regional Secretariat in Amman started its operations in September last year, it has been actively involved in coordinating CoE activities amongst Partner Countries in the Middle East region (Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon)

Between March and May 2013 several meetings brought together numerous stakeholders and partners, including representatives from Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, and the EU Member States' embassies in Jordan.

Meetings

LEBANON



Bilateral meeting in Lebanon, 14-15 March 2013

The meetings took place on 14-15 March 2013 and were organised to introduce the CoE Initiative to the Lebanese stakeholders and discuss further cooperation between Lebanon and the initiative.

The meetings were held in Beirut and brought together Lebanese officials including Dr Samir El Daher, Advisor of the Lebanese Prime Minister; Dr Bilal Nsouli, the Director of the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission, recently appointed as the

National Focal Point (NFP) for the initiative in Lebanon; and Mr Mohamed Chreif, the former NFP. Representatives from the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon and to Jordan, in charge of the implementing the EU Instrument for Stability, and UNICRI were present at the meeting, as well as members of the governance team. The governance team, consisting of three non-governmental organisations, ADI, ENCO, ESSEC IRENE, has been entrusted by the European Commission to work on aspects of governance within the CoE Initiative.

During the opening, Dr El Daher welcomed the initiative and expressed the will to strengthen the cooperation with the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) in CBRN risk mitigation.

He also stated Lebanon's commitment to fulfil its international obligations in this field. Dr Nsouli noted that the endeavour to reinforce the CBRN policy should start from the national needs and take into consideration the structures already in place in the country. He also confirmed his support in the efforts towards establishment of the National CBRN Team in Lebanon. The meeting continued with several presentations about the CoE Initiative followed by a discussion.

The following day the activities of the CoE project 9 "National response plan in Lebanon for CBRN events" implemented in Lebanon by consortium led by the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre, were discussed.

The rest of the meeting focused on the next steps regarding the establishment of the National CBRN Team in Lebanon. The aforementioned governance team suggested activities that could take place in Lebanon in order to develop the governance of the initiative.

EU MS EMBASSIES IN JORDAN

The meeting on 17 March 2013 host-



Representatives from the EU Member States Embassies in Jordan at the CoE Middle East Regional Secretariat, Jordan, 17 March 2013

ed by the CoE Regional Secretariat and organised in cooperation with the Delegation of the EU to Jordan, was held with the participation of representatives from a number of the EU Member States Embassies in Jordan (Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy and Sweden); the Head of the Regional Secretariat Al-Sharif Nasser Bin Nasser, the CoE Regional Coordinator in the Middle East; and the representative from the Delegation of the EU to Jordan.

The meeting, organised to inform the participants about the CoE Initiative, focused on its concept, structure, stakeholders and mechanisms. In addition, the Regional Coordinator introduced the EU funded projects implemented in the region within the framework of the initiative. Following a number of presentations, the participants engaged in a fruitful discussion on various aspects related to the initiative.

IRAQ

The meeting on 15-16 April 2013 was organised with purpose to introduce the CoE Initiative, its concepts, stakeholders



and activities to the team of CBRN experts from Iraq. Indeed, this coming together was a very important and fruitful meeting, since it was the first meeting assembling the experts who, following the Initiative's methodology, will form the Iraqi National CBRN Team. Ten experts travelled to Jordan and, within the CoE Regional Secretariat premises, met with the Head of the CoE Regional Secretariat; the CoE Regional Coordinator in the Middle East; the representative from the EU, UNICRI; the governance team (ADI, ENCO, ESSEC IRENE) and implementers of CoE projects in the region.

Dr Mohammed Abu Al Shaer, the Iraqi NFP, presented updates on the CBRN risk mitigation activities that are taking place in Iraq with special attention to the progress achieved within the CoE Initiative, one of which is the establishment of the team of national experts in Iraq with various CBRN responsibilities and compe-



Discussions between Iraqi stakeholders and project implementers during a working session at the CoE Middle East Regional Secretariat, Jordan, 15-16 April 2013



Participants at the bilateral meeting with Iraqi stakeholders at the CoE Middle East Regional Secretariat, Jordan, 15-16 April 2013

tencies. This initiated a discussion on the role, responsibilities and benefits resulting from putting into operation such a team and the NFP, whose major role is to coordinate and facilitate its work. This topic was then continued in the afternoon session on CBRN governance chaired by the governance team and during the second "mentoring" day dedicated to exercises, discussions and guidance on functioning

of the National CBRN Team. The second day gave also an opportunity to exchange opinions on the expectations towards the CoE Initiative from the perspective of the Iraqi National Team and CBRN risk mitigation structure in Iraq.

An important part of this two-day meeting was dedicated to on-going and future CoE projects in the area of the CBRN risk mitigation in Iraq as part of regional projects. Currently 6 projects are being implemented in the Middle East region (Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon), out of which Iraq participates in 3 of them. These are in addition to 4 international projects that refer to all CoE Partner Countries, including Iraq.

The session dedicated to CoE projects included a presentation by Ms Cristina Longo from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre about the methodology developed for the quality control of projects with regard to achieved results. One of the responsibilities of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre

within the CoE Initiative is the quality control of the implemented projects.

As for effective communication tools, participants were introduced, during a live demonstration, to the CoE portal developed to enhance day-to-day communication and to exchange information amongst the CoE partners. This included a presentation of the section created specifically for the Middle East Regional Secretariat and its activities.

New project

The European Union will fund a project entitled "Strengthening Capacities in CBRN Response and in Chemical and Medical Emergency" (project 34) in the region. The beneficiaries of the project will be all three Partner Countries in Middle East; Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon.

Cooperation in other regions

In February, March and April, several meetings took place in the Eastern and Central Africa region, both with the established members of the initiative, as well as with those countries that expressed an interest to join the initiative

Eastern and Central Africa

WORKSHOPS IN UGANDA AND KENYA

The "National Team Skill Building: Teamwork and Planning Workshop" was organised on 4-5 February 2013 in Uganda and on 7-8 February 2013 in Kenya.

The morning session of the first day was dedicated to introductory presentations on several topics: activities and progress achieved by the Partner Country within the CoE Initiative, the CoE projects in the Eastern and Central Africa region, the role of the National CBRN Team, introduction to the needs assessment methodology and the private portal as the communication and information exchange platform for all stakeholders.

This was followed by a mentoring part with guidance, discussions and exercises to improve assessment and planning skills. It consisted of several practical group exercises on identifying CBRN hazards that the countries face; assessing capacity to prevent potential hazards from becoming incidents or to respond effectively and avoid significant consequences; assessing capability gaps which may be defined as differences between "ideal" capacity to deal with a hazard and today's capacity; and identifying needs and setting priorities



The "National Team Skill Building: Teamwork and Planning Workshop" in Uganda, 4-5 February 2013

i.e. actions required to build a capability to reduce existing gaps.

The workshop with the Ugandan team took place within the Uganda National Council of Science and Technology (UNCST). It commenced with the opening speeches given by Dr Maxwell Otim Onapa, the Deputy Executive Secretary of UNCST, His Excellency Ambassador Roberto Riboldi, Delegation of the European Union to Uganda, Ms Alma Pintol, the CoE Regional Coordinator for Eastern and Central Africa region and a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda.

Mr Murang'a Morekwa from the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and Mr Ali Gakweli, Kenyan National Focal Point from the aforementioned Ministry opened the workshop in Kenya.

This was followed by a welcome and introduction given by the CoE Regional Coordinator for the Eastern and Central Africa region.

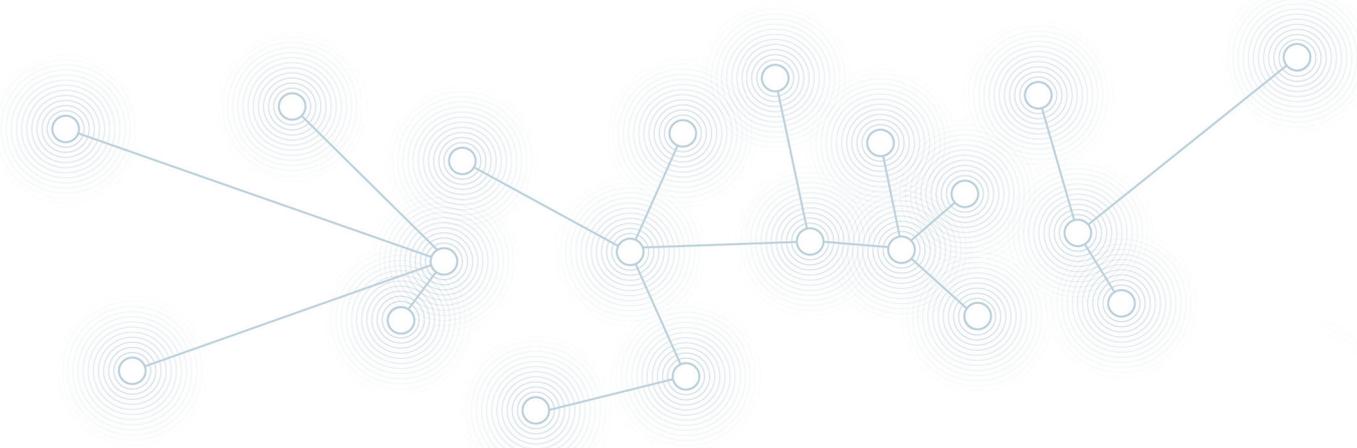
BILATERAL MEETINGS

GHANA 27-29 MARCH 2013



Bilateral meetings were organised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana and other relevant institutions to discuss collaboration between Ghana and the CoE Initiative, and the implementation of CoE pilot project "Establishing a national response plan in Ghana and Kenya for responding to unauthorised events involving chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials" that will be implemented by Kenya Government Chemist Department.

On the same occasion, the CoE team met with the Delegation of the European Union to Ghana and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ghana.



ETHIOPIA 1-2 APRIL 2013



A meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia was organised to discuss future collaboration between Ethiopia and the CoE Initiative.

Meetings were arranged with the African Union, the Delegation of the European Union to the African Union, the Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator to present an update on the latest developments within the initiative.

BURUNDI 4-5 APRIL 2013



In the past months Burundi has nominated the National Focal Point and officially expressed interest in joining the CoE Initiative in late February this year. Bilateral meetings followed and were organised with the Ministry of External Relations and International Cooperation of Burundi to discuss collaboration between Burundi and the CoE Initiative, and the implementation of projects approved for the Eastern and Central Africa region involving Burundi.

The CoE team met with the Delegation of the European Union to Burundi and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Burundi.

KENYA 15-22 APRIL 2013



Meetings took place in Kenya with representatives from the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the overall purpose to discuss progress and agree the subsequent steps with regard to the opening of the CoE Re-

gional Secretariat in Nairobi for the Eastern and Central Africa region.

Additionally, the CoE Regional Coordinator met with the National Focal Point to discuss steps ahead with regard to the work of the National CBRN Team.

Meetings with the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya and with United Nations offices in Kenya concluded the mission in Kenya.

UGANDA 24 APRIL 2013



The last country visited during the series of bilateral meetings in the Eastern and Central Africa region was Uganda.

Meetings were organised with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence; Commanding Officer of the NBC Defence Regiment; Uganda People's Defence Forces; as well as with the representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uganda.

The discussion focused on the operations of the Ugandan National CBRN Team as a follow up to the workshop "National Team Skill Building: Teamwork and Planning" held in February earlier this year.

South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 18 FEBRUARY 2013



The second bilateral meeting with National CBRN Team of Bosnia and Herzegovina was organised on 18 February 2013 in Sarajevo.

It is an excellent example of exchange of best practice in the region, as it was organised with the participation of the Serbian National Focal Point and the deputy, to illustrate and share the Serbian experience in setting up and making the activities and operation of the National CBRN Team sustainable.

UKRAINE 27 FEBRUARY 2013



Bilateral meeting with the National Focal Point of Ukraine focused on further engagement of Ukraine in the CoE Initiative.

GEORGIA 20-25 MARCH 2013



During a mission in Tbilisi, the CoE Regional Coordinator for the South East Europe, Southern Caucasus, Moldova and Ukraine region met with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and the Georgia Police Academy to discuss the opening of the CoE Regional Secretariat in Tbilisi. He also met with the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia and the United Nations Development Programme in Georgia to brief them about the latest developments.

Additionally, meetings were organised with national CBRN stakeholders concerning new project proposals in the area of CBRN risk mitigation that could be submitted for funding to the European Union in the framework of the CoE Initiative.

Upcoming events

4-5 June 2013. Project 30 "Network of Excellence for Nuclear Forensics in South East Asia Region" - Kick off meeting in Thailand with the national and regional partners

12-13 June 2013. CoE Bilateral meeting with Libya

25-26 June 2013. Official opening of the Middle East CoE Regional Secretariat in Amman and the 2nd Round Table Meeting of the National Focal Points in the Middle East region, Amman

1-5 July 2013. IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts, Vienna

2-3 July 2013. 2nd Round Table Meeting of the National Focal Points in the North Africa region, Tunis

9-11 July 2013. Official opening of the South East Europe/Southern Caucasus/Moldova and Ukraine CoE Regional Secretariat in Tbilisi, Round Table Meeting of the National Focal Points in the region, Regional Experts' Meeting on CBRN incident response, Tbilisi

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CBRN CoE Archive.
 Page 9 Master's Course: Courtesy of ENCO.



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About CBRN CoE

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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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