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Schools of Excellence

The CBRN Schools in the Middle East and the Gulf Cooperation Council regions




Amman, Jordan, 10th September 2018

The Middle East Secretariat launched for the first time the idea of the Schools of Excellence in 2016 and time has now come to start implementing the proposal, that in the meantime was endorsed by the European Commission. It all started thanks to a statement of

the Jordanian National Focal Point, Col. Saleh Al Sheyab, who pointed out that he would be glad to share with other Arab experts the knowledge and expertise he acquired in the field of CBRN Risk Mitigation. There is no doubt

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HIGHLIGHTS

-  **AAF: towards a region free of CBRN risks.**
-  **CA: successful trainings stories.**
-  **Lionshield field exercise in Georgia.**

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Projects at a glance

A series of projects are currently supported within the framework of the CBRN CoE Initiative. Via a bottom-up approach ensuring that the project address priorities of both EU and the 8 partner Regions, they target specific needs identified regarding CBRN Risk Mitigation. This includes matters such as export control, illicit trafficking, border monitoring, bio-safety and biosecurity.

Fig. 1 is an indication of the number of projects run by the 8 CBRN CoE regions, the size of the circle is directly related to the amount of projects currently on the go. Each project is divided into 3 main stages, In Preparation, Ongoing and Implementation completed. Fig. 2 shows the relationship between the three main stages of projects currently on the go.

53 Implementation completed

22 Ongoing

05 In Preparation

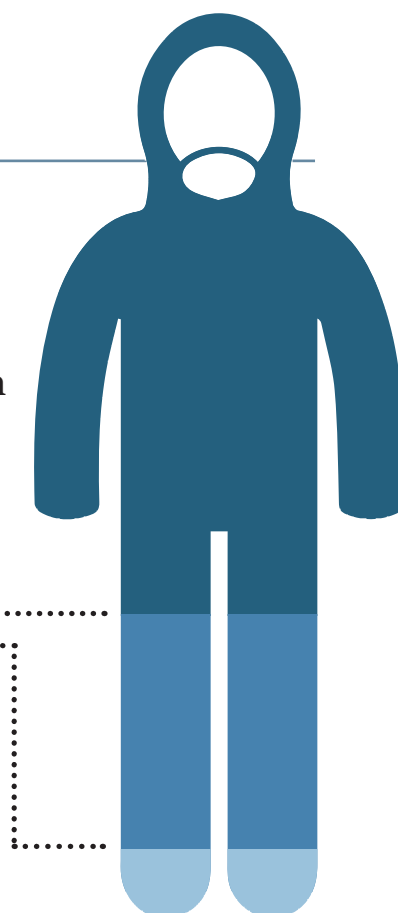


Fig. 2 Number of projects and their stage of completion.

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TABLE OF COMMON ACRONYMS: **AAF** = African Atlantic Façade; **CA** = Central Asia; **CBRN** = Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear; **CoE** = Centres of Excellence; **DG DEVCO** = Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development; **EC** = European Commission; **ECA** = Eastern and Central Africa; **EEAS** = European External Action Service; **EUD** = European Union Delegation; **GCC** = Gulf Cooperation Council Countries; **JRC** = Joint Research Centre; **MIE** = Middle East; **MoU** = Memorandum of Understanding; **NAP** = National Action Plans; **NAQ** = Needs Assessment Questionnaire; **NAS** = North Africa and Sahel; **NFP** = National Focal Point; **NT** = National Team; **OPCW** = Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; **OSA** = On-site Technical Assistance; **PHE** = Public Health England; **RAP** = Regional Action Plan; **RTM** = Round Table Meeting; **RS** = Regional Secretariat; **SEA** = South East Asia; **SEEE** = South East and Eastern Europe; **ToR** = Terms of Reference; **UNICRI** = United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

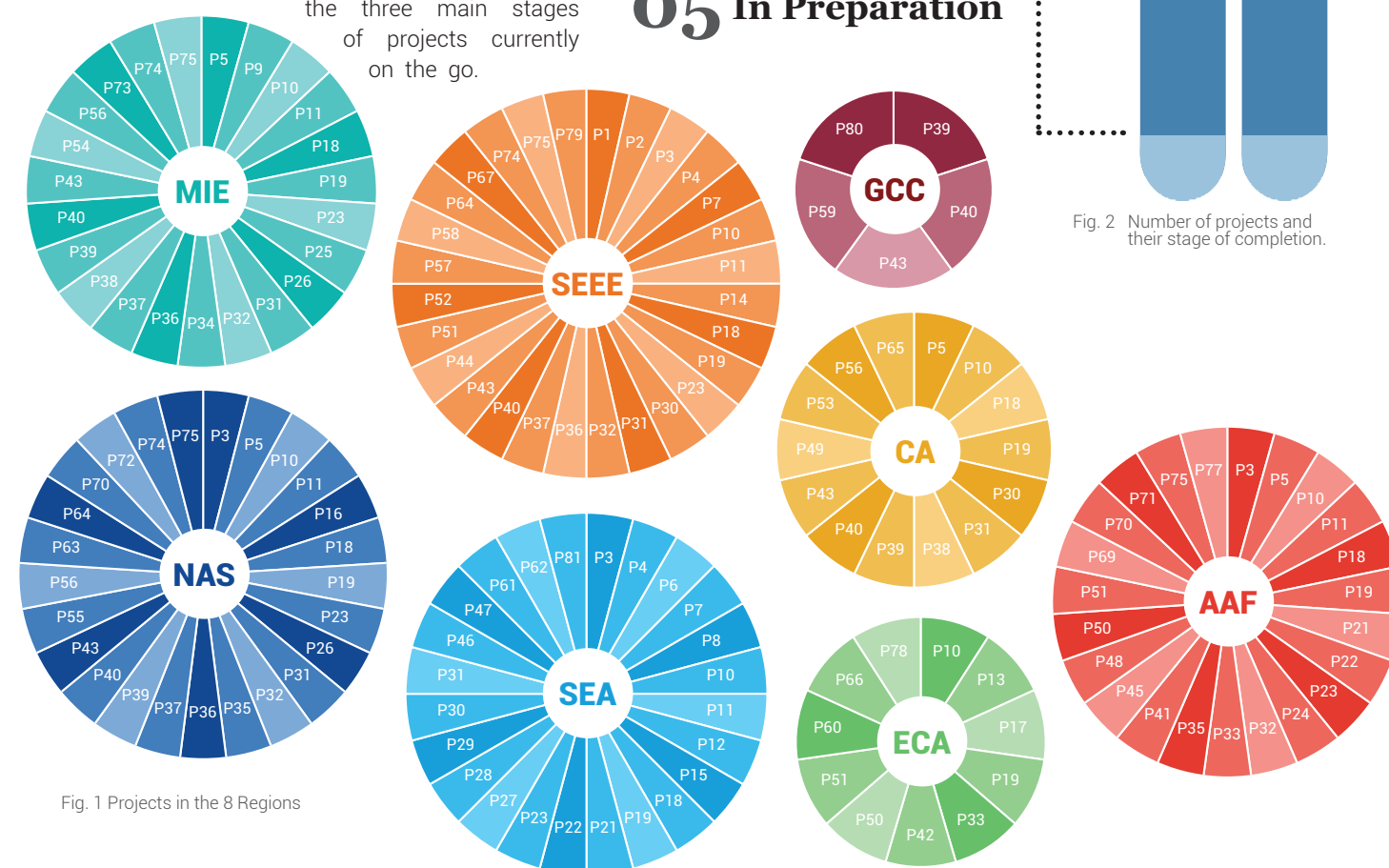


Fig. 1 Projects in the 8 Regions

Interview with Radoslaw Darski former Head of political section in the EU Delegation, Uzbekistan

By Maria GROENEVELD



Radoslaw Darski

Radoslaw Darski was Head of political section in the EU Delegation in Uzbekistan until August 2018 and a Focal Point in the Delegation for the CBRN CoE in Uzbekistan. He is currently Deputy Head of Division at the EEAS, EURCA. EAST.1 - Eastern partnership - regional cooperation and OSCE.

How does the EUD see the importance of the CoE Initiative to Uzbekistan and Central Asia region in general in the current political and security situation?

The EUD has always perceived CBRN CoE as a very valuable partner in

implementation of particular policies directly or indirectly related to security developments in Uzbekistan and Central Asia. Bearing in mind recent positive developments in Uzbekistan, but also growing challenges in the region and Europe we can assume that this importance will grow rapidly, offering new platforms for intensified dialogue in the security sphere. Generally speaking CoE was always very helpful in facilitating our exchanges with local authorities – on one hand it served as a proven source of information related to technical aspects of several security related exchanges, on the other it helped to translate certain political narratives into concrete programmes, offering tangible help to local partners and significantly developing capabilities of particular actors in the region. What is equally important is that the CoE provided our local partners with the sense of ownership for the entire initiative.

What are the main priorities for the Delegation regarding the Initiative? How did you involve the CoE Initiative in the political and security dialogues with Uzbekistan?

The EUD has always tried to involve the CoE in numerous exchanges related to the security sphere (obviously providing that it coincided with the CBRN's portfolio). Bearing in mind the expertise of our CoE colleagues and the excellent contacts they established with local actors, the Delegation kept involving CoE in several bilateral and multilateral

negotiations trying to use the initiative as a platform to exchange opinions but also pursue actual programmes. In a concrete dimension the CBRN matters have been always discussed with our Uzbek counterparts during relevant bilateral exchanges, CoE experts were consulted during discussions concerning possibilities of establishing particular programmes related to CBRN matters, last but not least Delegation representatives were constantly present during CBRN events organised by CoE in Uzbekistan.

What is your advice and suggestions to the colleagues in Delegations – how to best benefit from the CoE Initiative in terms of the dialogue with the partner country?

I believe that the expanding cooperation with CoE offers us a unique opportunity to gain access to very specific source of knowledge, but also enables to “depoliticise” certain dialogues. The second factor is obviously very much dependent on concrete circumstances, but our current experience shows that having CoE experts on board very often allowed to streamline the discussion and focus on very concrete aspects of our cooperation with local authorities, putting aside all the unnecessary “political chapeau”. That indeed was very helpful and allowed us to achieve progress in several exchanges in a relatively short period of time. □



NAQ Meeting opening, Benin

AFRICAN ATLANTIC FAÇADE

By Stefania Micucci

Towards a region free of CBRN risks

AAF Region, November 2017 – July 2018

Five countries of the African Atlantic Façade region now have a roadmap to deal with CBRN threats. Following eight months of work, in July 2018 Cameroon

joined the group of countries with the National CBRN Action Plan, namely Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Morocco and Senegal. The country will now focus on adopting and promoting the plan at the international level.

Thanks to its strong commitment, Togo

is half way through the process, with Liberia having started the work in May 2018. Benin and Mauritania have both completed the baseline assessment, and will shortly follow the same path. This forms an excellent basis for moving to the next step, that of developing a strategy to mitigate CBRN threats in the region. It is expected that by mid-2019, the region of African Atlantic Façade will have a strategy for addressing CBRN security-related risks in a coordinated way. Among other issues, such a strategy will serve as a basis for setting up a regional training centre to help the countries boost their CBRN mitigation capabilities.

As a stepping stone in this direction, contacts have already been established with African and European universities with the view of setting up a one-year master programme.



NAQ Meeting opening, Benin



Closure of the P41, P35 and 5th Anniversary for the AAF Regional Secretariat

The big challenge: national interests vs. regional cooperation

In matters of national security, it is a natural tendency for the countries to limit sharing and cooperation. This has not been the case for the countries from the region of African Atlantic Façade.

Five years of cooperation among them in matters of CBRN security has led to the establishment of comprehensive national structures to reduce security risks as well as to the creation of regional teams of trainers.

The Regional Secretariat of the African Atlantic Façade's CBRN Risk Mitigation Center of Excellence has been there to support and encourage the countries throughout this process. In March 2018, the Secretariat celebrated its 5th anniversary, a clear demonstration of the countries resolve to continue along this path.

On the same occasion, the successful closure of two projects, on biological and chemical waste management and on high risk chemical facilities, was celebrated. The EU CBRN CoE Initiative brought the countries to work together on these highly sensitive issues and,



Middle: 5th Anniversary of the AAF Regional Secretariat. Above: AAF National Focal Points



BWC - African Union workshop

given the benefits of the regional cooperation that has been set up in the past five years, the countries strongly recommended for these projects to be extended.

Beyond regional cooperation

CBRN Risk Mitigation is a complex task. National efforts made to this end are substantial, but insufficient. With this in mind, the countries of the region have invested great efforts in consolidating regional cooperation. They have shared best practices and knowledge in mitigating the risks. However, the objective can be better achieved through a wider perspective. In an economically interlinked world such as the one we are living in today, regional cooperation is just the starting point for addressing global challenges.

The Regional Secretariat has established collaborations with a number of international organisations active in the CBRN field in an effort to support the partner countries in reaching this strategic goal. Most recently, five radiological experts from the region benefited from a training on Medical Management of CBRN Casualties organised by the United States Defense

“ The basis for a closer cooperation in the chemical field was discussed with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in Algiers in May 2018 ”

Threat Reduction Agency in Morocco in July 2018. Moreover, the basis for a closer cooperation in the chemical field was discussed with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in Algiers in May 2018. Finally,

countries' biological priorities have been promoted at the meeting organised by the Biological Weapons Convention Implementation Support Unit (BWC-ISU) at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October 2017. ▣



CBRN demonstration organised by a unit of the civil protection of Morocco

CENTRAL ASIA

by Fanny Fert

EU CBRN CoE Project 53 supports the Afghan Government in the rehabilitation and equipment of the Training Centre of the Afghanistan National Public Health Institute (ANPHI)
2 - 3 November 2017,

“ ANPHI and Project 53 signed a Memorandum of Understanding which includes support for the rehabilitation and equipment of its training centre in Kabul ”

Project 53 is supporting the Government of Afghanistan and its Ministry of Public Health with an ambitious program designed to institutionalise biosafety and biosecurity programs in Afghanistan and improve capacity of Afghan scientists from Central Public Health Laboratories (CPHL), Central Veterinary Research Laboratory (CVDR) and Afghanistan Atomic Energy High Commission (AAEHC). Additionally, the Afghanistan National Public Health Institute (ANPHI) and Project 53 signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) which includes support for the rehabilitation and equipment of its training centre in Kabul. ANPHI is the academic and intellectual body of Ministry of Public Health. Necessary supplies and equipment provided under Project 53 have been used for a series of a Laboratory training-workshops on "Biosafety and Biosecurity" at the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) and Afghanistan National Public Health Institute (ANPHI) training centre on February 16-20, February 23-27 and March 2-6 2019 with the title "Training

of technical, scientific and other professionals involved in biosecurity and biosafety".

On 2 - 3 November 2017, the 2nd Regional Meeting of Project 53 "Strengthening the National Legal Framework and Provision of Specialized Training on Biosafety and Biosecurity in Central Asian Countries" took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and an awareness raising meeting on biosafety and biosecurity issues for Pakistan was conducted on 9-10 April 2018, in



P53: Awareness raising meeting on biosafety and biosecurity in Pakistan Islamabad – 9-10 April 2018



Biosafety Cabinet Maintenance Training within the Project 53 had a Win-Win result!



Islamabad, Pakistan. The meeting was organised in close cooperation between the EU team of implementers (ISTC, SCJS, PHE, VERTIC and RIVM), the Pakistan National Institute of Health and the EU Delegation to Pakistan.

P53 co-organised a side event together with the EU, at the BWC Meeting of Experts, on 13 August 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The side event was opened by Anne Kemppainen, Minister Counsellor of EU Delegation to the UN in Geneva. The event covered two EU legislative assistance instruments: EU Council Decision 2016/51/CFSP and the EU CBRN CoE Initiative. VERTIC (part of EU Team of Experts for P53) provided an overview of legislative assessment and drafting methodologies.

Biosafety Cabinet Maintenance Training within Project 53

21 January - 1 February 2019, Public Health England, Porton Down, UK

Inside the framework of the Project 53, we are pleased to report that two Kazakhs and six Mongolian trainees took part in a Public Health England (PHE) developed Biosafety Cabinet



Above: Testing the cabinet downflow. Below: Simon Parks (Biosafety, PHE, UK) demonstrating effects of movement on biosafety cabinet airflows.

Maintenance Training course that has been certified by NSF (the Public Health and Safety Organization).

Out of eight trainees in total, six passed the course. They passed both the practical and theoretical exams that were proctored by NSF staff. One of the trainees passed the practical but failed on the theoretical. However, this trainee will have an opportunity to retake the theoretical exam from his country, in the coming month. In summary, we have a successful outcome, as we have two experts from Kazakhstan and four experts from Mongolia, who are now qualified to perform maintenance, tests and certify Biosafety Cabinets, which is internationally accepted, as these experts are certified by NSF.

P65 - Initial Fact-Finding Missions January 2018

Project 65 "Strengthening chemical and biological waste management in Central Asia countries for improved security and safety risk mitigation" was launched in January 2018 and covers partner countries of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative.



NAP: 2nd CBRN NAP for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Following the kick-off meeting of the project during the 7th RTM for Central Asia in March 2018 in Dushanbe, P65 team organised a series of fact-finding missions in partner countries:

In Mongolia: In January 2018, Mongolia joined the EU CBRN CoE Initiative. Between 5th and 7th June 2018, implementers from EU CBRN CoE Project 65 "Strengthening chemical and biological waste management in Central Asia countries for improved security and safety risk mitigation - CABICHEM" visited its capital Ulaanbaatar to carry out the first fact-finding mission. The mission included visits to the Interim

storage for mercury waste at the National Emergency Management Authority, to the medical and biological waste management facility of the Element company and to the Naran Enger waste disposal site.

Similar fact-finding missions were conducted **in Uzbekistan** (2- 4 July 2018) together with meetings with Afghan National CBRN Team (5 – 6 July and 6 august 2018) and in Kyrgyzstan (9-10 July 2018).

2nd CBRN NAP for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan 7 - 10 August 2018

The second workshop for the draft of the CBRN Risk Mitigation NAP of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was held on 7 - 10 August 2018 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The organisation of the workshop was facilitated by the CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat for Central Asia. The National Team of Afghanistan together with the experts from JRC in the different fields of CBRN, completed the next steps in the draft of the NAP. The table of actions, including all specific tasks, leading and supporting agencies, and priorities, was completed.

At this stage, the Afghan National Team still needs to work on the narrative part and the final completion of the document can be envisaged by mid-2019. ▣



In Mongolia

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COUNTRIES

by Adil Radoini

The EU CBRN CoE supports the GCC Region in reinforcing the capabilities to tackle Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risks.

Kuwait City, Kuwait - 17 December 2018

From 10th to 13th December 2018, the Gulf Cooperation Council Emergency Management Center (GCC EMC) in Kuwait hosted a workshop on Chemical and Biological Threats, delivered by EU CBRN experts in the framework "of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative for the GCC countries".

The workshop, held at the Regency Hotel in Kuwait City, was attended by

national experts from all GCC countries and from a wide range of authorities such as Civil Defence, Public Health and First Responders. The event was also attended by representatives of the US Armed Forces CBRN Unit, stationed in Kuwait and serving the region.

The workshop marked the first joint activity between the EU CBRN CoE Initiative for the GCC, hosted in Abu Dhabi by the UAE Ministry of Interior, and the GCC EMC and aims to develop a long-term partnership for the effective planning and coordination for CBRN Risk Mitigation activities in the region. The meeting was opened by the Deputy

Director of the GCC EMC, a representative of the EU Delegation to Saudi Arabia covering the GCC region and the GCC Regional Coordinator from UNICRI.

The workshop included a theoretical perspective on CBRN risks in the GCC region and practical exercise to test and validate partner countries' capabilities. The participants expressed their satisfaction and their interest in deepening the cooperation with the EU CBRN CoE Initiative. ▣



Abu Dhabi during the CoE-GCC EMC joint training

MIDDLE EAST

by Adil Radoini

Continued from cover article ...

that the use of local expertise would add important benefits to the usual mechanism of delivering training through external project implementers who, most of the time, would come from outside the regions.

- First of all, using local experts who are able to deliver training in Arabic, would make the learning process more effective and less expensive;
- It would also enhance the mentoring capacities of partner countries' experts;
- It will also reinforce the regional cooperation dimension when a training is delivered by experts from one country to experts of another;
- It would make use both of the facilities available in the region for training as

well as of the equipment available in the countries;

- Many local experts as mentors will encourage them to produce presentations and training curricula in local languages;
- Finally, the resources spent in travels would be limited as the local experts would not need to travel outside of the region.

All of this makes the EU CBRN CoE more sustainable while reinforcing the ownership dimension of partner countries. The rationale that prompted the Schools of Excellence idea emerged almost naturally: as we all know, the CBRN CoE supports countries in identifying their needs through the Needs Assessment Questionnaires and National Action Plans. The classic way

to respond to the identified needs is the implementation of CoE projects through external organisations and partners. We also know that the available resources for projects are limited and that it is important to optimise the use of the internal available assets. This is why the Schools of Excellence try to identify resources that are already available within its own network. These resources are to be intended firstly in terms of human resources to improve the skills of the members of the CoE network in central fields: CBRN technical expertise, project drafting and project management, international coordination and cooperation, fund-raising and negotiations.

Beside the local human resources, the Schools of Excellence concept would like



The training group in front of the Jordanian Civil Defense building

“ In conjunction with the human resources, the Schools of Excellence, could also promote the identification and use of the training facilities active in partner countries. ”

to promote the use of the international expertise available within the CoE network. A key role could be played in this sense by the OSA Experts, JRC, UNICRI, the Governance Team and other partners. In conjunction with the human resources, the Schools of Excellence, could also promote the identification and use of the training facilities active in partner countries. The first Pilot Training sessions of the Schools of Excellence took place in Amman, Jordan from 9th to 12th July 2018. The training targeted Iraqi and Jordanian CBRN First Responders from the respective Civil Defense Directorates and was jointly organised by the OSA CBRN Expert, Dr Günter Povoden, the Jordanian NFP Col. Saleh Al Sheyab, with the support of the Middle East Secretariat.

In line with the Schools of Excellence spirit, the training combined local and international resources. For instance, the training was hosted by the Jordanian Civil Defense premises, using both Jordanian and international expertise. The Jordanian experts were from the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management and the Ministry of Health, while the international experts were led by Dr Günter Povoden and belonged to the Austrian Army. The equipment used for the practical trainings was previously provided through the EU CBRN CoE Project 34. The group of trainees was composed of nine representatives from the Iraqi Civil Defense (coming from different provinces of Iraq) and four representatives from the Jordanian side. The training included both theoretical and practical aspects and it was held both in Arabic (by the Jordanian trainers) and English (by the international experts). It was considered by all the

participants an important success that should be replicated.

A second phase of the Schools of Excellence is currently under development by the Middle East Secretariat. This phase foresees an even stronger role for the local partners that will be entirely in charge of the organisation and coordination of the courses. It will be funded by the EU CBRN CoE and supervised by UNICRI and will give full responsibility to the local organisations in delivering trainings using local expertise and facilities.

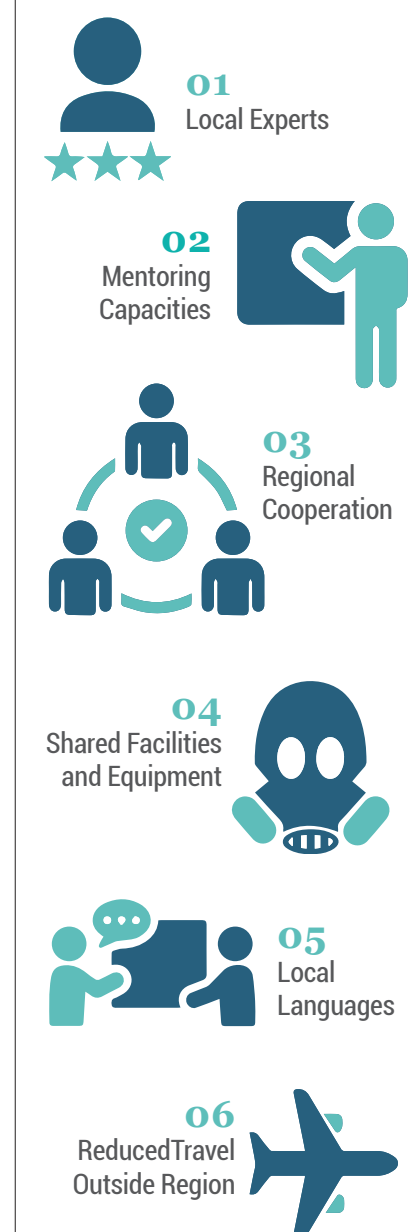
In this regard, the Middle East Regional Secretariat recently developed the first CBRN Regional Action Plan for Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq which was endorsed by the National Focal Points in May 2018. Interestingly, the most immediate proposal resulting from the Regional Action Plan is the implementation of the above mentioned second phase of the Schools of Excellence by the local organisations under the supervision of Head of the Regional Secretariat, Al Sharif Nasser bin Nasser.

Similarly to the Middle East Secretariat, also the Abu Dhabi Secretariat is developing a regional logical framework that will be fed with the needs and priorities of its CoE partner countries. In the hope this will be considered the first step of a long series, this effort shows how the EU CBRN CoE can be a platform for creative and sustainable innovation, where partner countries, through a bottom-up approach, become primary protagonists in building capacities to respond to the CBRN risks and improve their CBRN policies. ▣

CBRN SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

The Schools of Excellence are based on the idea of identification and use of resources that are already available within its own network to improve the skills of the members of the CoE network in central fields:

Main Advantages:



EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

by Alma Pintol



Field exercise on Radioactive Source Identification and Recovery, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16-17 August 2018.



Spreading the Culture of Nuclear Safety and Security in Eastern and Central Africa (2) 16 - 17 August 2018.

At mid-point of its implementation, Project 60 reaches out to more experts in nuclear safety and security in all eleven participating partner countries of the EU CBRN Centre of Excellence in Eastern and Central Africa.

Field exercises form an important part of Project 60 activities. The field exercise on "Radioactive Source Identification and Recovery" took place at the National

Radioactive Waste Management facility in Addis Ababa on 16 - 17 August 2018. Three facilitators from the ENCO/SCK-CEN Consortium guided the fifteen participants from three project countries - Ethiopia (host), Uganda and Ghana. On day one, they discussed radiation physics and protection, equipment and different phases of search, identification, characterization and recovery. The staff of the Ethiopian Radiation Protection Authority (ERPA) made presentations on specific equipment available to them.

On the second day, the participants exercised in two groups of five-

six people with different roles (field officers with PPE and equipment, communication officers and radiological assessors) under the leadership of the consultants. During the debriefing, all participants enthusiastically expressed their willingness to apply soon in their countries the knowledge they received.

Fourteen participants from three partner countries - Kenya (host), Rwanda and Seychelles - took part in the field exercise on "Radioactive Source Search, Identification and Recovery" convened at the new National Radioactive Waste Management Facility near Nairobi on 27-28 August 2018. The Kenyan Radiation Protection Board extended support in relation to radiation monitoring instruments and technical arrangements. All participants obtained hands-on experience with personal protection equipment, various detection and identification/characterization devices, and with techniques and standard operation procedures. The participants, highly positive about the lessons learned during the field exercise,

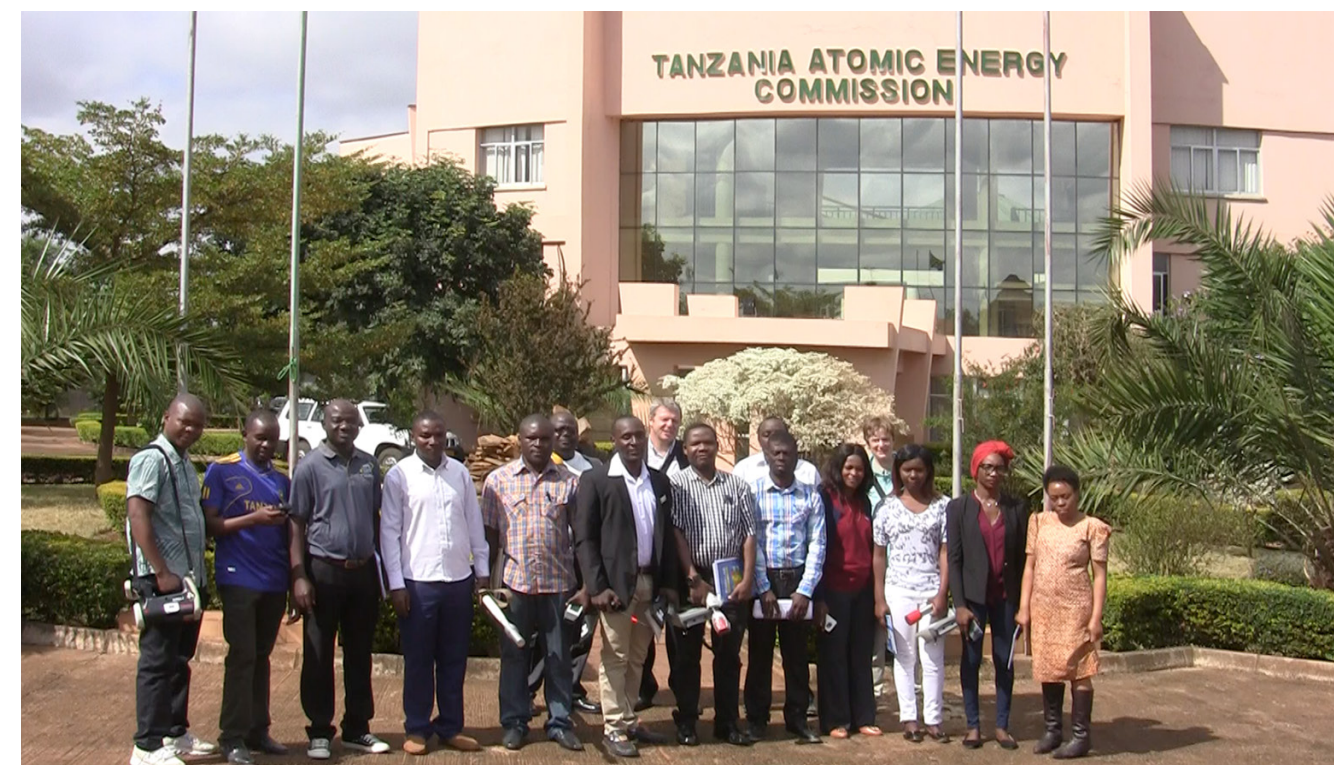
shared ideas on how to improve the conducting of the search, identification and recovery of radioactive sources.

The field exercise on Source Identification and Recovery was conducted at the office of the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission in Arusha, and on the field close to the radioactive waste storage facility on 13-14 August

2018. The participants, separated in four groups, trained themselves with appropriate equipment for the different phases of search, identification/characterisation and recovery of hidden radioactive sources. Along the training, they received tailor-made advices from the experts and vividly expressed their opinions on how to better apply their new skills. □



Nairobi area, Kenya, training phase, 27-28 August 2018



A field exercise on Source Identification and Recovery. Arusha, Tanzania, 13-14 August 2018.

SOUTH EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE

by Givi Amiranashvili, Francesco Miorin, Paulina Goliakovaite



Last Regional Round-Table Discussions

South East and Eastern Europe region advances in the areas of regional CBRN training centers and Regional Action Plan

Countries in South East and Eastern Europe, although dispersed geographically, share common threats and challenges posed by CBRN materials. These challenges are related, but not limited to the history of belonging to former socialist countries, internal struggles such as so-called breakaway regions and position of being potential transit route in the trafficking of hazardous materials.

Considering the above-mentioned threats, effective and systematic training of personnel from a wide range of institutions, such as law enforcement, intelligence, environmental agencies and research laboratories is an integral part of any strategy to successfully mitigate the risks posed by CBRN materials. SEE countries, thanks also to the assistance

from international partners, have made significant progress and have developed wide range of capabilities to mitigate risk posed by CBRN materials. Currently in the region there are numerous laboratories, research centres, academic and governmental institutions that possess outstanding CBRN expertise and are serving as CBRN training centers at the national, regional and international levels. The strengths that countries in the region possess can be used for the common good as countries can learn from each other's experiences, best practices and share facilities to effectively mitigate CBRN risks.

Representatives of countries participating in the EU CBRN CoE

Initiative stressed on several occasions the importance of relying on local research and training capacity. In turn, EU CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat for SEE saw the potential and undeniable benefits in the idea of establishing cooperation among CBRN training institutions in the region.

Three years ago, the idea of establishing a regional network of CBRN training institutions was first proposed by the SEE Regional Secretariat. The overall objective of this effort would be to enhance the capacity of the countries from SEE to autonomously and effectively mitigate risks stemming from natural, intentional or inadvertent use of CBRN material. By creation of a network

“RAP is not a substitute to other multilateral and bilateral initiatives, but rather a valuable addition”

of training institutions countries would increase their Risk Mitigation capacities in the fields of CBRN emergency response and decontamination, CBRN forensics, biorisk management (biosafety and biosecurity), chemical safety and security, nuclear safety and security, detection of CBRN materials and CBRN waste management. In addition to this, establishing a network of training institutions will foster harmonisation of practices and training curricula, and will strengthen the institutions themselves by increasing their capacities to deliver trainings at the regional level and beyond.

The SEE Regional Secretariat staff with the support of OSA Key Expert have already consulted the NFPs and carried out a mapping of CBRN training centres in the region that could provide training at the national and regional levels on the above-mentioned range of subjects. The Regional Secretariat is currently concluding an Implementing Agreement with the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia (hosting institution of the Secretariat) to finalise the mapping of CBRN training facilities of the region and to organise a first Kick-off meeting of a regional network of CBRN training institutions in the SEE region, which took place in March 2019.

Currently, the SEE Regional Secretariat is developing a first draft of Regional Action Plan, which is based on the analysis and comparisons of the National Action Plans. The idea behind the RAP is that in National CBRN Action Plans, NAPs for the implementation of

UNSC Resolution 1540 and WMD non-proliferation strategies SEE countries have indicated overlapping challenges, which can be addressed regionally following a regional approach. The RAP is not a substitute to other multilateral and bilateral initiatives, but rather a valuable addition, which if properly implemented, could help to achieve national objectives in the field of CBRN Risk Mitigation more efficiently and may have longer-term impacts. Since CBRN challenges often are transnational in nature (such as RN smuggling), they cannot be solved on national level and require regional efforts. In addition, countries can benefit from sharing best practices and applying them partially or in full according to their needs and possibilities. The added value of a RAP lies in strengthened regional cooperation and closer ties between the countries of the SEE region.

The RAP will be constituted of the following elements:

- Regional risks factors
- Gaps and needs related to legislation, regulations, inter-agency cooperation, training, equipment and regional coordination
- Capabilities (expertise, facilities, best practices) possessed by countries in the region
- Common objectives and future actions to address the identified risks and gaps

The concept and main findings were presented during the 11th CBRN CoE National Focal Points Round-Table Meeting for SEE held on 16-18 October 2018 in Podgorica, Montenegro. □



Last Regional Round-Table Discussions



LIONSHIELD 2018:

SEE successfully holds the first EU CBRN CoE field exercise

On 5-8 June 2018, the first SEE regional exercise – LIONSHIELD – was held in Tbilisi, Georgia and was hosted by the State Security Service of Georgia (SSSG) and organised by the SEE Regional Secretariat together with the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU). This was a multi-scenario field exercise in which inter-agency teams from SEE countries tested their capabilities in detecting and responding to three different scenarios focusing on trafficking of radioactive and nuclear materials.

Exercise Focus:

- Learn about legal and regulatory framework, responsible agencies and practices of neighbouring countries;
- Compare the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); test skills and knowledge in a new setting;
- Build-up stronger relationships with other countries' officers and practitioners;
- Identify essential future actions at bilateral/multilateral levels to enhance regional cooperation on countering nuclear trafficking.

NORTH AFRICA AND SAHEL

by Samia Chouchane

Meetings and main activities that enhanced the CBRN risk awareness through the region 15 March 2018 – 31 July 2018

During this period the Regional Secretariat organised and/or attended a series of events and contributed to the following activities:

1. Experts group meeting to finalise the draft of Terms of Reference on waste management of chemical and biological substances.
2. Launch of the training programme for First Responders.
3. Promoting interregional cooperation (6th International Meeting of EU CBRN CoE National Focal Points).
4. Enhancing international cooperation with relevant international partners.
5. Support countries in finalising NAQ/NAP.

1. Experts group meeting to finalise the draft of Terms of Reference on waste management of chemical and biological substances.

Waste management for C and B has been identified as a major challenge in North Africa and Sahel region during the 2017 Round-Table Meeting in Brussels. In this context, National Focal Points have decided to work on the Terms of Reference of a specific project. For the past months, the CoE NFPs and Regional Secretariat worked with the OSA on drafting the ToR, and then prepared and organised a Regional Meeting with advanced experts from the region, together with NFPs, to finalise the draft document.

Throughout the 2-day event that took place on 29-30 April 2018 in Annaba, Algeria, participants brainstormed about the scope of the project, including the



Kheira Bradai, former Head of NAS Secretariat



Expert group meeting on C and B waste management, Annaba, Algeria 29-30 April 2018

best and more relevant activities to be incorporated in it, reviewed all the proposed technical components of the Project and made concrete propositions and recommendations.

2. Launch of the training programme for First Responders.

Based upon the regional needs and priorities of all partner countries, the Regional Secretariat prepared, drafted and discussed with NFPs a specific programme of capacity-building addressing the specialised needs of First Responders in case of CBRN related accident or incident. Several meetings were organised in the countries to tailor made the programme: in March in Algiers with officers from the Police, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture representatives as well as Customs officers; in April in Mali and Burkina Faso with the CBRN National Teams.

3. Promoting regional cooperation (6th International Meeting of EU CBRN CoE National Focal Points)

On 18-21 June 2018, the 6th annual EU CBRN CoE National Focal Points meeting was held in Belgium, Brussels.

The sessions were aimed at discussing updates from the NAS Regional Secretariat, DG DEVCO and partner countries. Furthermore, future activities, ongoing CoE projects and challenges in the implementation of the EU CBRN CoE were tackled during the meeting, in particular the issues raised by NFPs with regards to the Project 55 on border security. A specific African session was organised to discuss the modalities of a deeper coordination within the African regions and the involvement of other regional organisations.

The NAS Regional Secretariat is also identifying available regional expertise to be shared among partner countries.

4. Enhancing the cooperation with relevant international organisations

Following up on the 8th Regional Round-Table Meeting that took place in Oran, Algeria, the Regional Secretariat worked on the establishment of a new cooperation, to allow partner countries to benefit as much as possible from available existing resources in the region.

In May 2018, the Regional Secretariat

took part in the organisation of a joint event organised with OPCW on "Planning and coordination for North Africa and Sahel" organised in Algiers. The event aimed to promote exchanges of ideas with CoE CBRN Initiative and OPCW national authorities from North African and Sahel, to join the efforts and share the resources in the development of capacity building programmes. The 3-day meeting was an occasion to further discuss with OPCW their contribution to the training programme for first responders (sharing of expertise, equipment, resources).

In June 2018 in Tunis, the Regional Secretariat participated to the ANNUR Expert Meeting on Capacity Building and Nuclear Safety Knowledge management organised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The event gathered Human Resources representatives from Middle East and North Africa countries and enabled the Regional Secretariat and IAEA to start discussions on the development of a Human Resources oriented programme that will focus on CBRN capacity building, to enhance partner countries commitment to address CBRN related risks and threats.

A part of the NAS Regional Secretariat strategy includes an enhanced cooperation with relevant international institutions, while discussions with UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - Container control programme) and GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) are ongoing.

5. Support countries in finalizing NAQ/NAP.

The NAS Regional Secretariat, together with the OSA Expert assigned to the Region, supported National Teams and NFPs in finalising their NAQ, in particular in Mali and Burkina Faso on the occasion of two National Teams meetings that took place in April 2018. ▣

SOUTH EAST ASIA

by Harro Wittermans and Emily Castriciones

Towards a Regional Action Plan in South East Asia

Like other regions of the EU CBRN CoE, the SEA region sees potential benefits in the establishment of a CBRN Regional Action Plan. While all the necessary conditions may not yet be in place to start developing this strategic document across the region, this article highlights some of the events which significantly mark important first steps towards this goal.

1. Define national strategic priorities – Cambodia formally approves its CBRN National Action Plan. On 11 December 2017 the official launch of the CBRN NAP of the Kingdom of Cambodia took place at a high-level event organised in Phnom Penh. The event was opened by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Samdech Pichey Sena Tea Banh.

The launching provided an opportunity to acknowledge the important work

carried out by the Cambodian CBRN National Team, and to inform both high-level policy makers from the Government and international partners about the relevance of CBRN risks and the country's priorities in this area.

The key purpose of the CBRN NAP is to articulate a national vision for CBRN Risk Mitigation and to identify priorities for strengthening capacities in this area. It also facilitates the identification and implementation of projects and ensures that capacity building is part of a coordinated and sustainable approach.

Cambodia officially joined as a partner country of the EU CBRN CoE in 2010 and established its CBRN National Team in the following year, working towards stronger coordination at national level to establish Cambodia's CBRN NAP.

The next challenge now is to implement the CBRN National Action Plan and monitor its progress.

The Cambodian National Team can

rely on continued support from the EU CBRN CoE in this process as well as benefit from the experiences of the other partner countries in the network.

To be able to establish a Regional Action Plan, all the partner countries in the region shall have to develop their CBRN NAP, to act as guide documents for the regional one. Cambodia is the first country in the region to both develop and formally approve its CBRN NAP. It is hoped that the other Partner Countries in the region shall soon follow Cambodia's example.

2. Understand strategic priorities of your neighbours – ASEAN Regional Forum poster session on the CBRN National Action Plans

Philippines, as the current host-country for the EU CBRN CoE Initiative Regional Secretariat, has always been committed in promoting CBRN Risk Mitigation in the South East Asia region. Following the successful ASEAN Regional Forum workshop on CBRN Risk Mitigation in



AHA Centre, July 9th 2018



NAP poster overview, Brunei, March 6th 2018

2015 (co-hosted by the Philippines and the EU), a follow-up event was organised in Manila from 6-8 March 2018, to facilitate continued regional strategic discussions on this important topic.

This year's event was co-hosted by

the Philippines, Canada and the United States of America and saw no less than fifteen participants from the EU CBRN CoE network amongst the delegates – four as their country's delegation leader, two that facilitated technical break-out sessions and Mr. Danilo Servando, as

Head of the Regional Secretariat, was Master of Ceremony for the second half of the event. One important recommendation presented both by the technical break-out groups and the Senior Officials Meeting was to develop a CBRN Response Plan at the regional level.



P46 closing event, July 3rd 2018

During this event, on the opening day, a CBRN NAP poster session was organised. Nine out of the ten partner countries from the region presented their key strategic priorities as highlighted by their CBRN NAPs or their national equivalents. The lively discussions that took place during the NAP poster session followed from the fact that all the participants to this large event have a role in CBRN Risk Mitigation in their respective countries. They were eager to take note of, and sometimes challenge, the unique and common needs and priorities throughout the region. For developing a future Regional Action Plan, it is essential to first understand one another's strategic priorities and key needs. Another reason to celebrate



NAP poster, Brunei, March 6th 2018

this NAP poster session is that, for the first time, three countries prepared and shared their National CBRN priority posters based on their NAP-equivalent plans that were developed outside of the EU CBRN Centres of Excellence. The trust given to the EU CBRN CoE Initiative to understand, and promote, each of their key strategic priorities is another core element in the move towards a future regional action plan.

3. Determine common regional needs – Project 46 regional closing event.

As a final review of project outcomes, as well as to identify recommendations for future regional projects, a closing event was organised by Project 46 of the EU CBRN CoE. The event assembled from two to six CBRN experts from each of the seven project partner countries and facilitated both plenary and thematic CBRN discussions amongst the experts. Project 46 had a broad mandate: "Enhancement of CBRN capacities of South East Asia in addressing CBRN Risk Mitigation concerning CBRN first response, biosafety and biosecurity, awareness raising and legal framework". The benefit of this approach was that the project had some flexibility to respond or adapt to emerging needs

or priorities as the activities proceeded. This, of course, was always done in consultation with the partner countries, the Regional Secretariat and the European Commission.

4. Engage with partners in the region – Introduction to the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Centre

While looking for successful existing structures and agreements in the region that could serve as an example for an effective and sustainable way to maintain and implement a future CBRN Regional Action Plan, or Regional CBRN Response Plan, the Regional Secretariat engaged with the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Centre in Jakarta.

The AHA Centre is mandated to monitor the SEA region for (increased risks of) natural disasters and, if requested by the stricken country, to coordinate the joint humanitarian response by other

ASEAN countries in the region. Currently, the AHA Centre is not mandated to respond to isolated CBRN incidents in the region, unless they have occurred as a secondary consequence to a natural disaster.

However, with the rapid industrialisation, mitigation of CBRN risks following natural disasters is increasingly important within ASEAN Region, given the high humanitarian impact nature of such events. The AHA Centre is interested to identify networks before exploring its potential role related to CBRN disasters and how it could coordinate regional assets within ASEAN. In parallel, the CBRN NFPs of the SEA region have long highlighted the importance of finding synergies with ASEAN on CBRN Risk Mitigation.

In November 2018, the AHA Centre, in partnership with the Indonesian Disaster Response Agency (BNPB), has organised the ASEAN Regional Disaster Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX-2018), based on the scenario that an earthquake will cause a tsunami which impacts an industrial chemical zone in Indonesia.

5. Support and build on CBRN initiatives in the region – An ASEAN Chemical, Biological and Radiological Expert Network Singapore held the ASEAN Chairmanship for the year 2018 and, at the start of its tenure, declared CBRN Risk Mitigation as one of its priorities.

The Regional Secretariat invited Singapore to make a presentation during the 4th Regional Round Table Meeting in Brussels this year, to inform the CBRN NFPs about its ambitions. One representative from the Singapore Ministry of Defence and two colleagues

from the Defence Science Laboratories (DSO) presented the regional Chemical, Biological and Radiological (CBR) Defence Expert Network, that would be announced formally during this year's ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting and to be launched in 2019.

The Regional Secretariat welcomes this initiative, which is also expected to include non-defence experts and laboratories, since the mapping of regional experts is also one of the ambitions of the Secretariat. The new CBRN CoE Project 61, on the "Sound management of Chemicals and their Respective Wastes" also includes a component on establishing a regional network of chemical laboratories. We will be collaborating closely with Singapore to support and build on their efforts.

6. Provide a mechanism to ensure high-level technical support for national and regional initiatives in CBRN Risk Mitigation – Project 62: On-site Technical Support to CBRN Centre of Excellence in the South East Asia region.

Project 62 has the primary mandate to enhance the technical capabilities in CBRN Risk Mitigation of the Regional Secretariat and formally launched as part of the 5th Year Anniversary Celebrations of the Regional Secretariat in Manila on March 9, 2018. The OSA expert provides technical support to

the partner countries in the region within the scope defined in the Terms of Reference of the project. These activities may include support towards the development of the partner countries' CBRN National Action Plans (including the eventual development of a Regional Action Plan), the organisation of regional expert meetings, as well as regional table-top and field exercises aimed at crafting a possible regional response plan.

The OSA expert is also available to provide technical assistance to ongoing CBRN CoE projects and in developing project proposals geared towards the implementation of the CBRN NAPs. With the current development by the OSA expert of a methodology for the SEA region which includes technical inputs, risk mappings and analyses from CBRN national experts, Project 62 aims to serve as a platform to ensure that the needs of the partner countries in the region are fully reflected in the terms of reference and work packages of the future projects.

One example of building sustainability within the region is through exploring opportunities for synergistic cooperation with international organisations and training institutions to address specific priorities of partner countries. The outcomes may eventually benefit the whole region. □



Cambodia NAP launch, December 12th 2017

Chemist from Malaysia wins OPCW-VERIFIN Internship



Mr. Saiful Anuar Bin Mohd Kesah

Mr. Saiful Anuar Bin Mohd Kesah has been selected

for the six-month long Internship for Synthetic Chemistry at the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention (VERIFIN), in co-operation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

His project will focus on the micro-synthesis of precursors, degradation products and by-products of nerve-agents, including forensics of Schedule 1 Chemicals under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Mr. Mohd Kesah works as a Chemist at the Centre of Chemical Weapon Analysis, Department of Chemistry, Malaysia, the only Chemical Laboratory which has the basic competency to analyse CWC-related chemicals and which aims to become a designated laboratory under OPCW. Mr. Mohd Kesah was highly recommended by his home institution, by the Malaysia government for the Implementation of the CWC, and the Permanent Representation of Malaysia in the Hague. He is also supported in this endeavour by the EU CBRN Risk Mitigation CoE Initiative, OSA for the Regional Secretariat of SEA (Project 62) and the EU CBRN Focal Points of Malaysia. The Centre of Chemical Weapon Analysis will become one of two-leading institutions for CWC-Analysis and will play a vital role in enhancing the analytical laboratory capacity of countries within the SEA region. His internship lasted until March 2019.

“ With rapid industrialisation, mitigation of CBRN risks following natural disasters is increasingly important within ASEAN Region ”

CBRN NEWS FROM ALL REGIONS



Training in Biorisk Management, Nonproliferation Mechanisms and BTWC National Implementation in Islamabad, Pakistan, 11th April 2018.



CA Regional Secretariat

On-Site Training in Central Asia Tajikistan 20-26 November 2017

The OSA expert to the Regional Secretariat for Central Asia, Dr. Lela Bakanidze was on a short – term mission in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on 20-26 November 2017 to conduct a training in biorisk management and project proposal preparation for 20 Tajik CBRN experts from relevant ministries and agencies.

Topics covered included biosafety, biosecurity, bioethics and dual-use areas. In the final session of the training she gave the participants a comprehensive presentation on how to efficiently prepare project proposals.

On November 23, Dr. Bakanidze delivered a training about Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and nonproliferation mechanisms. During the mission in Dushanbe the OSA expert also visited the Tajik Research Institute of Preventive Medicine, the Afghan and Tajik Regional Biosafety Training Centre and the Institute of Chemistry. In the training Centre Dr. Bakanidze had the occasion to see the glove box purchased for Tajikistan within the scope of Project 53.

On April 11 Dr. Bakanidze conducted a training in Biorisk Management, Nonproliferation Mechanisms and BTWC National Implementation for 40 Pakistani experts from relevant CBRN agencies. The training was held at the National Institute of Health, Islamabad, Pakistan - 11 April 2018. Dr. Bakanidze dealt with assessment, mitigation and performance for biosafety, biosecurity, bioethics and biorisk management. The issues of dual-use in life sciences was also highlighted.

Project 50: Provision of specialised equipment to enhance CBRN preparedness and response capabilities.

Since September 2015 Paul Boyé Technologies has been managing the contract "Provision of specialised CBRN equipment for training first responders" in the scope of CoE Project 50 to enhance CBRN preparedness and response capabilities of different countries of the African Atlantic Façade and Eastern and Central Africa, with the support of the European Commission (DG DEVCO), EU Delegation and the National Focal Points based in each country.

The first part of this project (2016) was dedicated to the delivery of CBRN equipment to each country including individual protective equipment, chemical, biological and radiological detectors, sampling and decontamination equipment together with consumables and spare parts to cover CBRN missions for over 3 years.

Second part of the project (2016 and 2017) included national training sessions held in each partner country. Main objective was to train the users coming from different authorities (Civil Protection, Firefighters, Police,

Customs, Special Forces, Emergency Medical services) on how to operate the equipment and perform its maintenance. The training included both theoretical and practical sessions, featured demonstrations of the equipment as well as outdoors exercises and simulations. These training sessions followed and efficiently complemented the training sessions organised within CoE Project 33 – "Strengthening National CBRN Legal Framework in East and Central Africa and the African Atlantic Façade".

Round-Table Meetings 7th Round Table Meeting for Central Asia

After two new countries, Pakistan and Mongolia, joined the Initiative respectively in 2017 and 2018, six countries are now engaged under the Central Asia region of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative: Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Kazakhstan is participating in an on-going project of the initiative, P53. The meeting was attended by the NFPs and relevant experts from the partner countries, the European Commission and UNICRI. The meeting was chaired by the Director of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency (NRSA) and National Focal Point for Tajikistan, Dr. Ilkhom Mirsaidov and Mr. Bakhtiyor Gulyamov, Head of the Uzbek State Inspection "Sanoatgeokontekhnazorat" and Head of the Regional Secretariat.

The RTM presented an opportunity to take stock of progress achieved so far in the Central Asia region, to plan next steps and discuss new regional priorities, such as a proposal to develop a Regional Action Plan covering the UNSC Resolution 1540. In addition, innovative activities were considered to enhance regional cooperation, particularly raising CBRN awareness among school students. The RTM was also the occasion to launch a new project, P65, dedicated to biological and chemical waste management in Central Asia.



Round-Table Meetings 7th Round Table Meeting for Central Asia



Meeting with the National CBRN Team of Ethiopia

Meeting with the National CBRN Team of Ethiopia

Addis Ababa - 5 and 6 December 2017,

A meeting with the CBRN Ethiopian National Team and stakeholders took place in Addis Ababa, on 5 and 6 December 2017, within the framework of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative. The meeting was organised by the Ethiopian Ministry of Science and Technology with the support of the AESA OSA Team and the Regional Secretariat for ECA.

This was the second in the series of meetings supported by the Secretariat and its purpose was to strengthen the collaboration between the CBRN National Team members and reinforce their knowledge of the CBRN CoE methodology and tools available within the programme, as well as to strengthen their understanding of the upcoming CoE projects.

8th Round-Table Meeting for Central Asia

Brussels - 20 June 2018

The 8th Round-Table Meeting for participating countries from Central Asia took place on 19 – 20 June 2018 in Brussels on the margin of the 6th International Meeting of the National Focal Points.

The objective of the meeting was to review progress achieved in the region since the previous RTM in March 2018 in Dushanbe and to discuss National CBRN Action Plan workshops, regional activities, project implementation and

new regional priorities. The meeting gathered National Focal Points and experts from the six partner countries, namely Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as UNICRI, DEVCO and JRC.

An important part of this meeting was dedicated to the implementation of P53 and P65, discussing the possibility of a Regional 1540 Action Plan, as well as defining new priorities for the development of a new regional project. At the 6th International Meeting of the National Focal Points on 18 - 21 June 2018 prizes were awarded in the

“ For the Innovative Regional Proposals we looked at the creativity of the proposals and how they were able to build upon and leverage the EU CBRN CoE the most. ”



The 6th RTM International Meeting of the National Focal Points Prize giving

categories of *Best Regional Success Story*, *Best National Success Story* and the *Most Innovative Regional Proposal*. Central Asia region was awarded with the prize for the Most Innovative Regional Proposal.

The proposal from Central Asia “Popularization and visibility of the EU CBRN CoE Initiative among the Various Layers of the Population” was discussed and agreed by the partner countries during the Regional RTM in Dushanbe in March 2018. The project seeks to raise the awareness of CBRN issues among children and youth through organisation of lessons, meetings and drawing competitions around the topic “Safe world through the eyes of children.

Ms Henriette Geiger, Director of the People and Peace Directorate, International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission in her speech announcing

the winners said: “For the *Most Innovative Regional Proposals* we looked at the creativity of the proposals and how they were able to build upon and leverage the EU CBRN CoE the most. The most innovative proposal showed a new way to take full advantage of the regional common expertise within the initiative. It identified a way to reach new

audiences for the important CBRN topics we work with every day for a safer future with and for our children.” Mr Bakhtiyor Gulyamov, Head of Secretariat of Central Asia region in his concluding remarks said that this is a result of collective efforts and shows the commitment of the region in finding innovative ways to tackle CBRN threats. ▣



8th Round-Table Meeting for Central Asia



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About the EU CBRN 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 Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CBRN CoE) is an EU initiative. It is led, financed and implemented by the European Commission, in close coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and with the support of the UN (UNICRI) and other International Organisations and local experts.

For more information visit CBRN CoE website at:
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