

2nd Annual Meeting for ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research

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Rationale

The accident occurred at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant (1FNPP) in 2011 revealed the widespread consequences of a release of radioactive materials after a nuclear accident to people and the environment. The accident generated over 150,000 evacuees, nearly 1,000 km² severely contaminated land, and over five trillion yen economic loss.

On the other hand, nuclear power gains increasing attention from countries around the world, including ASEAN countries, thanks to its potential to contribute to low carbon society. Thailand plans to have at least two units of 1,000 MWe nuclear power reactors by 2036. Vietnam signed two contracts with Russia and Japan which would have introduced four 1,000 MWe nuclear power plants in Ninh Thuan by 2028. While Vietnam cancelled this nuclear power project in November 2016, Indonesia plans to introduce small modular reactors in rural areas, and will start with the 10 MWe Serpong Experimental Nuclear Power Reactor. It can be observed that there are continuous activities in the field of nuclear power in the region, shifting from one country to another.

In order to ensure that the top priority will be given to safety in these nuclear power projects, and also to prepare for any emergency situations alike the accident in the 1FNPP, ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research (ASEAN NPSR) was formulated to help facilitate information and knowledge sharing throughout the region, and enable research cooperation among ASEAN countries. The Joint Communique of ASEAN NPSR was agreed upon by seven member states, including Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, on March 9, 2017 at the Kick-Off Meeting of ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research, Bangkok, Thailand. The Joint Communique of ASEAN NPSR was endorsed by the Sub-Committee of Sustainable Energy Research (SCSER) and approved by the ASEAN Committee of Science and Technology (ASEAN-COST) in October 2017 at the 73rd ASEAN-COST Meeting.

As specified in the Joint Communique, Thailand, as a Lead Country, will organize the 2nd Annual Meeting of ASEAN NPSR in Bangkok, Thailand on March 15 – 17, 2018. At the Annual Meeting, the Member States will present achievements and research results, receive comments from other Member States and discuss future activities of the said network.

Purpose

To ensure the continuity of the activities in ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research (ASEAN NPSR), and to discuss future research and funding plans for the network.

Contribution to ASEAN

- (1) Research capacity building on nuclear power safety in ASEAN
- (2) Regional readiness for introduction of nuclear power plants

Tentative Program/Agenda

March 15, 2018

9:00 – 9:15	Opening remarks (<i>Thailand</i>)
9:15 – 9:30	Introduction of participants/adoption of agenda (<i>Member States</i>)
9:30 – 9:45	Introduction to ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research (<i>Thailand</i>)
9:45 – 10:30	Progress report of the 2017 benchmark problem (<i>Thailand</i>)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:45	Progress report of the 2017 benchmark problem (<i>Philippines</i>)
11:45 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 13:30	Information on Nuclear Energy Cooperation Sub-Sector Network (NEC-SSN) under the Senior Officials Meeting on Energy body (<i>ASEAN Secretariat</i>)
13:30 – 14:15	Progress report of the 2017 benchmark problem (<i>Singapore</i>)
14:15 – 15:00	Progress report of the 2017 benchmark problem (<i>Vietnam</i>)
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 15:45	Introduction of the information sharing platform (<i>Thailand</i>)
15:45 – 16:15	Recommendations and suggestions on the 2017 benchmark problem (<i>IAEA Representative</i>)
16:15 – 17:30	Timeline and implementation plan of the 2017 benchmark problem (<i>Member States</i>)
19:00 – 21:00	Reception

March 16, 2018

9:00 – 9:15	Summary of the previous day (<i>Thailand</i>)
9:15 – 10:30	Funding of activities and technical support under a TC project (<i>IAEA Representative, Thailand, Member States</i>)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:30	Proposal of a new benchmark problem (<i>Vietnam</i>)
11:30 – 12:00	Discussion on the 2018 benchmark problem
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch
13:00 – 15:30	Joint discussion between ASEAN NPSR and ASEANTOM
13:00 – 13:30	Introduction of ASEAN NPSR and its activities (<i>Thailand</i>)
13:30 – 14:00	Introduction of ASEANTOM and its activities (<i>ASEANTOM Representative</i>)
14:00 – 15:30	Discussion on possible collaboration between ASEAN NPSR and ASEANTOM (<i>All participants</i>)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Discussion (<i>Member States</i>)
	- TC project and other supports from the IAEA
	- The 2018 lead country

March 17, 2018

9:00 – 9:15	Summary of the previous day (<i>Thailand</i>)
9:15 – 11:00	Review and adoption of meeting minutes (<i>Member States</i>)
	<u>Points to be concluded</u>
	- The 2018 lead country - Timeline and implementation plan of the 2017 benchmark problem - TC project and other supports from the IAEA - New benchmark problem(s), if any, and its implementation plan - Collaboration with ASEANTOM and other ASEAN bodies
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00	Concluding remarks (<i>Member states</i>)
12:00	Adjourn

Country representatives and country presentation

Each ASEAN country can propose one representative whose expenses for the round trip ticket, the accommodation and the meals during the meeting will be covered by the lead country. The representative must have the authority to make decisions in participation in ASEAN NPSR activities. The lead country can provide financial support to one additional representative from each ASEAN country which is able to report its progress on the 2017 benchmark problem or has a proposal for the 2018 benchmark problem.

Expected Outputs (2018)

- (1) Continuity of the ASEAN Network on nuclear power safety research
- (2) Tentative results of 2017 benchmark problem assessment
- (3) Proposal of 2018 benchmark problem(s) and the timeline for the assessment
- (4) Preparation for submission of TC project
- (5) Conclusion on collaboration with ASEANTOM

Ultimate Outputs (2019)

- (1) Self-sustained ASEAN network on nuclear power safety research
- (2) Self-sustained regional database of knowledge and information on nuclear power safety
- (3) Results of benchmark problem assessment and other research and development programs which could support decision-making related to nuclear power safety
- (4) Regional strategy for accident management in case a severe accident happens in a nuclear power plant which can be communicated to the decision makers in the region
- (5) Additional human capitals with knowledge and expertise of nuclear power safety