

March 9, 2017

Joint Communiqué
on
the Establishment of ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research

We, the Heads of delegation of countries participating in Kick-off Meeting for ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research at Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, on March 9, 2017 – the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Realizing the increasing attention from countries around the world, including ASEAN countries, toward nuclear power,

Recalling the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant which led to widespread consequences in a regional scale, including the release of radioactive material, the contamination of the area around the power plant, social disruption, and public anxiety,

Recognizing current research activities in the field of nuclear power safety, country needs, available resources, gaps to be fulfilled, presented by each country in the 2nd ASEAN Workshop on Nuclear Power Safety Research, on March 7 – 8, 2017,

Acknowledging the milestones toward the establishment of ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research completed by Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (TINT) and Vietnam Atomic Energy Research Institute (VINATOM), including the convention of the Workshop on Establishment of ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research at the ASEAN-EU Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Days in Hanoi in May 2016, and the support of the network establishment from the Sub-Committee of Sustainable Energy Research (SCSER) under ASEAN Committee of Science and Technology (ASEAN-COST),

Appreciating good scientific assistance from the European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA),

Decided to formally establish the ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research, and become the Member States of the said network.

We invite Brunei, Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Indonesia to participate in the said network.

Goal

Strengthen research and development (R&D), human resource development and regional cooperation in the field of nuclear power safety in ASEAN in order to support the formulation of the regional strategy for accident management and to be consistent with the IAEA Safety Standards

Objectives

- To be the regional platform in the field of nuclear power safety research to promote the data and information sharing and cooperation among the Member States
- To fulfill the needs and address the gaps of countries in the ASEAN region in R&D
- To strengthen the capability in R&D of the Member States in order to be able to provide the technical support for decision making
- To establish and enhance the cooperation between the ASEAN network and the IAEA and other relevant international organizations

Scope

Support R&D activities of the Member States in the field of nuclear power safety, including but not limited to:

- Design basis accident analysis
- Severe accident analysis
- Probabilistic risk assessment
- Fission product transport
- Accident consequence assessment
- Linkage between reactor assessments and environment impact assessment
- Other topics agreed upon by the Member States

Activities

1. Creation of information and knowledge sharing platform

The lead country will create the information and knowledge sharing platform for the said network within one month after this meeting. Member States will upload the list of researchers, the list of recent publications, the list of research projects on nuclear power safety and other appropriate information in the field of nuclear power safety on the said platform within one month after the announcement of the completion of the platform by the lead country, and update the information regularly.

2. Assessment of benchmark problems

Thailand and Vietnam proposed the Nuclear Accident Consequence Assessment Benchmark Problem for 2017, and Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and the Philippines expressed interests to participate in the assessment. The results will be shared in the Annual Meeting.

In the future, other Member States can propose benchmark problems of other topics within the scope specified above at least one month before the Annual Meeting.

3. Research collaborations

The Member States can propose bilateral, trilateral or multilateral research collaborations in the Annual Meeting for ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research, and the joint parties can share the results of research collaborations.

4. Annual meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held in the first quarter of every year. At the annual meeting, the Member States present achievements and research results, getting comments from other members and discuss future activities of the said network.

We concluded that the lead country of the ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research will be selected by the end of every Annual Meeting by majority vote, and will have the roles as follows:

1. Hold and be financially responsible for the Annual Meeting for ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research
2. Seek for the financial support for the said network from, for example, ASEAN, Dialogue Partners and IAEA
3. Manage the information and knowledge sharing platform
4. Call for proposals and facilitate the assessment of benchmark problems
5. Report the progress of the said network to the Sub-Committee of Sustainable Energy Research (SCSER)

Thailand will be the lead country for this network until the end of the next Annual Meeting for ASEAN Network on Nuclear Power Safety Research in 2018.