

FMWG Quarterly Regional Report for October-December 2013

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1. Regional Developments

- The following Asia-Pacific states (all of which have nuclear weapons or significant nuclear facilities, or plans to develop them), are ranked in the top 50 least stable states in the world in the 2013 Failed State Index: Pakistan (13th); North Korea (23rd); Myanmar (26th); Bangladesh (29th), and Cambodia (41st).¹ (Philippines ranks 59th, China 66th, Indonesia 76th, India 79th, Thailand 90th and Vietnam 97th. China is the only state with significant nuclear facilities in the region that is assessed to have become less stable over the past year, rising 10 places in the failed state index). Those perceived to be the most corrupt in the 2013 Corruption Perceptions Index are North Korea (175th), Cambodia (160th), Myanmar (157th), Bangladesh (136th), Pakistan (127th), Vietnam (116th), Indonesia (114th), and Thailand (102nd).²
- October 7-11, 2013: Participants from Bangladesh, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines attended a regional workshop titled ‘Observing a Nuclear, Radiological Emergency Exercise’, held in Hokkaido, Japan.
- October 2013: Representatives from Southeast Asia participated in a two-week training course on implementing the ASEAN Single Window – a 2005 initiative that aims to strengthen and coordinate strategic trade controls in Southeast Asia.
- November 6, 2013: The European Union launched an initiative to strengthen national CBRN legal frameworks in Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia and the Philippines. The first technical assistance visit of this EU-funded project took place in November 2013. The project, entitled “Prerequisite to strengthening CRBN national legal frameworks”, is part of the EU’s CBRN Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative. Within the framework of the initiative a regional secretariat has been established in Manila.
- November 12, 2013: Representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam attended a joint NNSA and IAEA-hosted nuclear forensics workshop in Richland, USA. The workshop brought together 26 nuclear scientists, law

¹ <http://ffp.statesindex.org/rankings-2013-sortable>

² <http://www.transparency.org/cpi2013/results>

enforcement officials and forensic specialists in hands-on training that focused on developing tools to help law enforcement investigations involving nuclear or radioactive material used outside of regulatory control.

- 20-22 November 2013: World Health Organization-affiliated research institutes from China, India, Japan and South Korea participated in the “Bab Al Maghrib” exercise to test international responses to dirty bomb attacks. Simulated explosions took place in Morocco in the port of Tangier and Marrakesh medina. Issues addressed during the exercise were connected to a radioactive release into the atmosphere, medical response and public health, security, transparent public communications, industry and tourism and commerce, in particular import and export of goods. Immediate conclusions drawn from the exercise included the need for improved collaboration between security and safety authorities, and improved communication with the public. *Bab Al Maghrib* was part of the ConvEx-3 IAEA program, which conducts radiological emergency preparedness exercises every three to five years. Until now, these exercises have been based on an accident at a nuclear power plant. This year’s scenario was the first involving urban dirty bomb explosions with threats of further attacks and widespread radiological consequences. 58 states and 10 international organizations participated.

2. Developments by Country

Oceania

Australia

- Australian nuclear security experts and officials have been helping to develop a proposal based on ‘international assurances’ in the lead up to the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in the Netherlands. The assurances proposal moves away from what is seen by some states as overly intrusive monitoring and verification and the ‘one-size-fits-all’ measures involved in formal nuclear security regime-building. Instead, it focuses on building confidence and trust through an informal and voluntary process of information-sharing. Australia has been developing this concept in the Global Dialogue on Nuclear Security and advocating the approach in recent Sherpa meetings.
- November 15, 2013: IAEA experts completed a two-week IPPAS mission in Australia at the country’s only nuclear reactor (located at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility southwest of Sydney). The mission reviewed Australia’s nuclear security-related legislative and regulatory framework, physical protection systems, and security arrangements applied to the transport of nuclear and other radioactive materials. The IPPAS team concluded that nuclear security within Australia has long been of a high standard and has been significantly enhanced in recent years. The team also identified a

number of good practices at Lucas Heights, and provided some recommendations and suggestions to assist Australia in the continuing improvement of nuclear security.

New Zealand

- October 21, 2013: New Zealand delivered a joint statement on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons in the UN General Assembly First Committee. The statement highlights the human security linkages between disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear security, asserting that “it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances. The catastrophic effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, cannot be adequately addressed. All efforts must be exerted to eliminate the threat of these weapons of mass destruction.” The statement was supported by 124 countries, including (for the first time) Japan.
- 23 October 2013: New Zealand’s Nuclear Free Act (1987) was awarded the Future Policy Award by the World Future Council in a formal ceremony at the United Nations, New York. (The Future Policy Award is the only award that honors policies rather than people on an international level).

Pacific Island Countries

- November 5-6, 2013: Tonga hosted 32nd Meeting of the Pacific Islands Law Officers’ Network (PILON). The keynote address, which was given by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat Deputy Secretary General, Feleti P. Teo, provides useful insights into the priorities of Pacific Island Countries (PICs), including in multilateral negotiations.³ A lack of nuclear infrastructure means that nuclear security is not a priority for PICs. However, due to the legacy of nuclear testing in the Pacific, radioactive contamination issues are often discussed in the Pacific Islands Forum, and the NPT and Treaty of Rarotonga are considered important treaties.

Northeast Asia

China

- October 29, 2013: Construction began on China’s centre of nuclear security excellence, which is being jointly financed by China and the United States. Located in the Changyang science and technology park in the southwestern outskirts of Beijing, the center will be equipped with environmental labs, response force exercise facilities, test sites for physical protection, and buildings for technology display and training, experiments and

³ <http://www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/newsroom/speeches/2013-1/keynote-address-by-dsg-teo-at-32nd-meeting-of-pacific-islands-law-officers-network-nukualofa-tonga.html>

scientific research. The center is designed to become a regional center that will serve as a platform for training and technological exchanges.

- November 1, 2013: Hans Kristensen and Robert Norris released their 2013 Nuclear Notebook, in which they estimate that China currently has roughly 250 warheads in its nuclear stockpile for delivery by land- and sea-based ballistic missiles, aircraft, and possibly cruise missiles. This represents a slight increase compared with previous years, reflecting the introduction of new intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).⁴

DPRK

- November 20, 2013: Senior Obama administration officials announced that if North Korea wants to resume multinational aid-for-denuclearization negotiations (known as the Six Party Talks or 6PT), the country must first halt its fissile-material production program, which is believed to be expanding. Pyongyang is reportedly resuming plutonium production at a recently restarted Soviet-era reactor and is assessed to have developed a way to indigenously manufacture centrifuges for use in its uranium-enrichment program. Analysts say North Korea is also expanding a missile-launch complex, possibly with the intent of enabling the firing of longer-range weapons.

Japan

- October-December 2013: Japan's Integrated Support Center for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security ran numerous workshops and seminars to build regional and international nuclear security capacity. Details can be found on the events page on the organization's website at: http://www.jaea.go.jp/04/isnc/11_pastevent_en.html.
- December 3, 2013: Japan hosted the 2013 International Forum on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Non-proliferation and Nuclear Security in Tokyo. The conference included a presentation by Toshiro Mochiji on the nuclear security risks associated with different nuclear fuel cycle options.⁵
- December 18, 2013: The Tokyo Electric Power Company (Tepco) announced that the two undamaged units at the Fukushima Daiichi plant - units 5 and 6 - are to be decommissioned. They may be used as mock-ups for testing technologies for inspecting and cleaning up the four damaged reactors there.

Republic of Korea

⁴ <http://bos.sagepub.com/content/69/6/79.full.pdf+html>

⁵ <http://www.jaea.go.jp/04/np/activity/2013-12-03/2013-12-03-03.pdf>

- October 22, 2013: South Korea organized a Strategic Trade Day in Seoul.
- November 14-15, 2013: South Korea hosted a Conference on Disarmament and Nonproliferation, organized by the Government of the Republic of Korea and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), in Jeju. The conference was attended by three 1540 Committee members and two 1540 experts.
- November 20, 2013: The Hanbit No.2 reactor in Yeonggwang county, which was shut on 30 October 2013, has been approved for reopening. The South Korean nuclear power plant has been embroiled in scandal following the disclosure that a fake safety certificate had been issued.

Southeast Asia

Indonesia

- November 6-8, 2013: The 4th Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) Plenary Meeting was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 7-8 November 2013, with working group discussions on 6-7 November. The meetings were hosted by Indonesia's Nuclear Regulatory Authority, BAPETEN and were widely attended by APSN members and observers, including the IAEA. Although the APSN's primary goal is to reinforce support for high nuclear safeguards standards in the Asia-Pacific region, it also holds informal discussions on nuclear security.
- November 2013: Faculty and students from Gadjah Mada University (GMU) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia spent a week at the Nuclear Security Science Policy Institute (NSSPI) at Texas A & M in November 2013 to discuss nuclear security education and experience the institute's curriculum firsthand. Their stop at NSSPI was part of a longer trip to prominent university programs in nuclear security throughout the United States.
- November 20-21, 2013: Indonesia hosted an Expert Meeting on the National Legislation Implementation Kit (NLIK) from 20 to 21 November 2013 in Yogyakarta.

Malaysia

- 28-29 October, 2013: Malaysia hosted the APEC Conference on Facilitating Trade in a Secure Trading Environment, organized by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), Malaysia and Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), in Kuala Lumpur.

Philippines

- November 20-21, 2013: the Philippines hosted a workshop on Countering the Illicit Trafficking of Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Materials, co-hosted by the Governments of the Philippines and Canada with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Manila.
- December 9-13, 2013: The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) hosted the country's 41st Atomic Energy Week celebration at the PNRI Compound in Diliman, Quezon City. Events included discussion of PNRI involvement in the country's response to nuclear emergencies.

Singapore

- November 13, 2013: Singapore hosted a meeting of more than 30 high-profile global leaders and experts from 20 countries on five continents, who gathered to address urgent global nuclear threats and outline key steps to reduce nuclear dangers around the world. It was the first time that members of four regional leadership networks—from the Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the United States—had convened as part of a major effort to galvanize global action and build support for reducing reliance on nuclear weapons around the world.

Thailand

- October 2013: Thailand hosted a regional nuclear forensics workshop to advance Asian-Pacific capacity to deter illicit trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material. Fifty-five participants from 17 countries attended the meeting, which coincided with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF). The workshop was hosted by the ARF in collaboration with US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), the European Commission's Joint Research-Centre Institute for Transuranium Elements, and the Kingdom of Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Office of Atoms for Peace.
- November 17-19, 2013: Thailand hosted the ICMM Pan Asia Seminar on Medical Preparedness and Response for CBRN Warfare and Terrorism in Bangkok. The seminar involved 92 delegates from 10 countries, including Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Laos, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Vietnam

- October 10, 2013: The US and Vietnam inked the U.S.-Vietnam Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement, which, if approved by Congress, will allow US firms to tap Vietnam's future nuclear power market (estimated to be worth \$50 billion by 2020). US State Department officials have stated that the deal will not allow Vietnam to enrich or reprocess US-origin nuclear materials. (However, Vietnam has not made a commitment not to develop these proliferation sensitive technologies over the longer term).

- October 22, 2013: Vietnam hosted a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Leadership Network (APLN) in Ho Chi Minh City. Participants (all senior opinion-shapers from the Asia-Pacific, including former national leaders) signed a declaration expressing their grave concern over nuclear threats in Asia. They called for practical steps to promote Asian strategic stability among Asia’s major powers and to encourage nuclear disarmament.⁶
- November 11-12, 2013: Vietnam hosted the Nuclear Energy Experts Group (NEEG) of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) in Da Lat. The seminar brought together 36 specialists from 18 countries from throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. They joined two days of off-the-record discussions on the nuclear safety and security regimes, the Nuclear Security Summit process, the Northeast Asian nuclear security centers of excellence, and the role of regional organizations to address nuclear safety and security. Participants also visited the Da Lat Nuclear Research Reactor, where they received briefings from various scientists and technical staff from the facility.

South Asia

India

- November 21, 2013: Russia-India talks in Moscow coincided with an announcement that the first unit of India’s Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (a joint Indo-Russian project) has been connected to the grid. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate in the construction of additional power units at the Kudankulam site, and in the construction of nuclear power plants based on Russian designs at new sites in India.
- November 26, 2013: Six people were killed when a bomb exploded in a house near India’s nuclear power plant at Kudankulam. The blast took place in an area built for survivors of the 2004 Tsunami in the village of Idinthakarai, which has been a centre of civil protest against the plant. Some Indian media commentators have speculated that the People’s Movement Against Nuclear Energy (an organisation backed by local church groups and international NGOs), was responsible for the blast, but this is disputed by local police. Concerns have also been expressed that the blast might have provided inspiration to terrorist groups capable of conducting a sophisticated attack on the plant.
- December 2013: Public opposition against India’s Jaitapur nuclear project continues. According to press reports, Shiv Sena MLA Rajan Salvi, who is leading the protest against the project, recently warned that: “If NCP and Congress dare to start the work [on the Jaitapur plant], we will destroy it.”

⁶ <http://www.a-pln.org/sites/default/files/apln-analysis-docs/HCMCDisarmDecFinPublic22x123.pdf>

- December 5, 2013: According to a report by the US-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), India is completing work on a second gas centrifuge facility at its Rare Materials Plant near the southern city of Mysore. The new facility could significantly increase India's ability to produce highly enriched uranium for military purposes, including more powerful nuclear weapons. (India's nuclear weapons program has traditionally been based on plutonium, not uranium).

Pakistan

- December 19, 2013: Pakistan has appointed Lt. Gen. Zubair Hayat to head its Strategic Plans Division (SPD), which oversees the development and security of the country's nuclear assets, according to the Defense Ministry. Hayat will replace retired Lt. Gen. Khalid Kidwai, who founded the SPD and served as its director general since its inception in 1999. (The SPD is responsible for all strategic organizations engaged in work related to missile and nuclear assets, including the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, the Khan Research Laboratory and the National Engineering and Science Commission).
- December 2013: Reports indicate that Pakistan is making progress on the fourth heavy water reactor at the Khushab nuclear site. The site's expansion appears to be part of a strategic effort by Pakistan to boost weapon-grade plutonium production. This increased capability would allow Pakistan to build a larger number of miniaturized plutonium-based nuclear weapons.