

FMWG Quarterly Regional Report for Jan-Apr 2014

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1. The Asia-Pacific and the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit

13 Asia-Pacific states participated in the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in the Netherlands (from a total of 53 worldwide). China, Japan, New Zealand, Pakistan, Singapore, ROK, and Vietnam were represented at the meeting by their head of state, whereas Australia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Philippines and Thailand were represented by their Vice President, Foreign Minister or special envoy. Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, ROK, Singapore, and Vietnam all contributed generously to Joint Statements pledging to address specific areas of nuclear and radiological security, whereas China, India and Thailand did not support any, and Pakistan only signed one (the Joint Statement on Nuclear Security Training and Centers of Excellence). Six Asia-Pacific states (Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, ROK, Vietnam) pledged support for the 35-state Joint Statement on Strengthening Nuclear Security Implementation, which was arguably the Summit's most important initiative.

Asia-Pacific states' support for 2014 NSS Joint Statements¹

- Joint Statement by the Leaders of Japan and the United States on Contributions to the Global Minimization of Nuclear Material
Japan, United States
- Joint Statement on a Comprehensive Approach to Nuclear Security
Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam
- Joint Statement on the Contributions of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) to Enhancing Nuclear Security
Australia, ROK
- Joint Statement on Countries Free of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU)
ROK, Vietnam
- Joint Statement on Enhancing Radiological Security
Australia, Japan, New Zealand, ROK

¹ <https://www.nss2014.com/en/nss-2014/reference-documents>

- Joint Statement on Enhancing the Security of the Maritime Supply Chain
Australia
- Joint Statement on Forensics in Nuclear Security
Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, ROK
- Joint Statement on Multinational Cooperation on High-Density Low-Enriched Uranium Fuel Development
ROK
- Joint Statement on Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres/Centres of Excellence
Australia, Indonesia, Japan, ROK, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam
- Joint Statement on the National Legislation Implementation Kit on Nuclear Security
Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, ROK, Singapore, Vietnam
- Joint Statement on Promoting Full and Universal Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540
Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, ROK, Singapore
- Joint Statement on Transport Security
Japan, ROK
- Joint Statement of Activity and Cooperation to Counter Nuclear Smuggling
Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, ROK
- Joint Statement on Strengthening Nuclear Security Implementation
Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, ROK, Vietnam

2. Developments by country, Jan-Apr 2014

Oceania

Australia

- In March, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) led one of three working groups in the 2014 Nuclear Industry Summit.
- The national progress report submitted by Australia to the 2014 NSS can be found here: <https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/australia.pdf>

- In March, Energy Resources of Australia reported that it had completed the clean-up of spilled radioactive material at Ranger uranium mine. (On 7 December 2013, a damaged rubber liner caused a tank of radioactive waste to rupture).²
- In February, the Energy Policy Institute of Australia, a think tank representing stakeholders in Australia's energy industry, released a report calling for the removal of barriers to nuclear power so that it can be considered as an electricity generation option in Australia.³
- Australia participated in the Fourth South-East Asian Regional Review Meeting on Radioactive Source Security, held in Thailand.
- With New Zealand, Australia supported the Malaysian-hosted tabletop exercise "Tiger Reef", which focused on interagency coordination and training that highlighted best practices and key resources for integrating cross-disciplinary training into national response frameworks.
- The conservative Abbott government announced that it is keen to close a deal to supply uranium to India. Foreign minister, Julie Bishop described it as a priority and stated that the government wants "to move as quickly as possible." (Australia recently completed a fourth round of talks with India aimed at closing a civil nuclear cooperation agreement).⁴
- In January, the NTI Index ranked Australia in first position for its nuclear security practices - among states that possess weapons-grade material (Australia has less than 2kg of HEU on its territory).

New Zealand

- As a member of the Vienna Group of 10 (with Australia and others), New Zealand jointly submitted a working paper to the 2014 NPT PrepCom calling for enhanced nuclear security. The text of the paper highlights the risk that individuals or sub-national groups could gain "uncontrolled access to nuclear material, equipment and technology." It calls on states to introduce physical protection and measures to combat illicit trafficking, and encourages the development of an "effective and sustainable national nuclear security regime" as "a precondition for the transfer of nuclear material, sensitive equipment and technology."⁵
- In March, New Zealand's 2014 NSS national progress report stated that New Zealand is liaising with the IAEA on the possibility of hosting an International Physical Protection Advisory Service Mission before the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit. It also states that in 2014, New Zealand provided funding of NZ\$100,000 to the World Institute for Nuclear Security to develop an online nuclear security qualification program. New Zealand's report can be found here: https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/new_zealand.pdf
- New Zealand announced that it will host a nuclear-security related regional table-top exercise under the auspices of the Proliferation Security Initiative in September 2015.

² <http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS-Ranger-spillage-clean-up-complete-2703145.html>

³ <http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NP-Plea-for-nuclear-in-Australian-energy-policy-0602147.html>

⁴ <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Australia-seeks-to-draw-India-into-tighter-embrace-with-nuclear-deal/articleshow/30540428.cms>

⁵ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.8

Northeast Asia

China

- In March, China submitted a national progress report to the 2014 NSS. Unlike many of the other reports, China's was vague and unspecific. It outlined general commitments, such as the government's support for "strengthening [the] international nuclear security architecture" but it lacked details on concrete nuclear and radiological security initiatives. China's progress report can be found here: <https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/china.pdf>
- In March, the French and Chinese Presidents witnessed the signing of an agreement by China National Nuclear Corporation and Areva on a used fuel treatment and recycling facility project. The agreement follows on from a letter of intent signed in April 2013, which set out technical specifications for a plant to reprocess 800 tonnes of Chinese used reactor fuel per year as part of China's long-term goals to reprocess and recycle its used fuel.⁶
- In February-March, China raised concerns about Japan's stockpile of enriched uranium and weapons-grade plutonium. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson asked: "Has Japan kept an excessive amount of sensitive nuclear material that is beyond its actual needs? Does one need so much sensitive nuclear material for peaceful use? What are those used for?"⁷
- On February 27th, China's Ministry of Environmental Protection approved the construction of two new nuclear reactors in the eastern coastal province of Shandong. The plan calls for the construction of two Westinghouse AP1000 reactors, at an estimated cost of \$5.1 billion.⁸
- In March, China announced that it is set to beat its 2020 targets for nuclear power, after resuming projects that had been halted after the Fukushima disaster. Beijing is undertaking the world's biggest expansion of civilian nuclear power as the government aims to increase its use of cleaner energy. China will surpass its goal of having 58 gigawatts of installed nuclear power capacity by 2020, and may build 20 or more nuclear reactors in the next six years.⁹
- China is currently in talks with Pakistan over the potential sale of three large nuclear plants. The talks follow a previous China-Pakistan nuclear cooperation deal on a complex containing two nuclear plants in Karachi, which was ceremonially inducted by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in late 2013.¹⁰
- In January, the first generating unit of a nuclear plant in Guangdong province started trial operations. The nuclear plant is expected to start commercial operations in a few months.

Japan

- In April, at a meeting of foreign ministers in Hiroshima, the 12 members of the Non-proliferation and Disarmament Initiative agreed to submit six working papers to the 2014 NPT PrepCom in New York, including one calling for enhanced nuclear security worldwide.

⁶ <http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/C-Agreements-abound-at-France-China-summit-2703147.html>

⁷ <http://thediplomat.com/2014/03/japan-and-chinas-dispute-goes-nuclear/>

⁸ <http://oilprice.com/Energy/General/China-Moves-Forward-with-New-Nuclear-Reactors.html>

⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/12/china-cncc-nuclear-idUSL3N0M90LI20140312>

¹⁰ <http://thediplomat.com/2014/01/pakistan-china-discuss-3-plant-nuclear-energy-deal/>

- In March, at the 2014 NSS in the Netherlands, Japan officially confirmed that it will transfer more than 700 pounds of weapons-grade plutonium and a large quantity of highly enriched uranium to the United States. The materials comprise a decades-old research stockpile.¹¹
- In its national progress report, presented to the 2014 NSS, Japan stated that Japan has been strengthening measures to protect against nuclear terrorism at nuclear facilities, which includes a Strategy to Make Japan “the Safest Country in the World,” which was approved by the Cabinet in December 2013. In January 2014, Japan advocated “Three Preventions”: (1) prevention of the emergence of new nuclear weapon states, (2) prevention of the proliferation of nuclear-weapons-related materials and technologies, and (3) prevention of nuclear terrorism. Japan’s progress report can be found here:
https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/national_progress_report.pdf
- On 19 March, Japan’s nuclear watchdog chose two reactors at Kyushu Electric Power’s Sendai plant, in Kagoshima prefecture, as the country’s very first to restart following the civil nuclear shutdown after the Fukushima crisis.¹²
- In January, Japan officially requested the IAEA to dispatch an IPPAS mission, following an IPPAS workshop in Tokyo in December 2013. Japan will coordinate the schedule with the IAEA, but expects the mission will take place by spring 2015.
- In January, the JAEA held an international symposium entitled “Nuclear Physics and Gamma-ray Sources for Nuclear Security and Nonproliferation”. It was the first symposium to focus on nondestructive measurement technology with gamma rays.

Republic of Korea

- In March, at the 2014 NSS, Korea joined with Canada to pledge a gift basket on “Promoting Full and Universal Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1540.” ROK’s 2014 NSS national progress report can be found here:
https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/republic_of_korea.pdf
- On 24 February - 7 March, Republic of Korea received an IAEA International Physical Protection Advisory Service mission.
- On 19 February, Korea launched the International Nuclear Non-proliferation and Security Academy. This is intended to provide education and training programs to developing countries, and is expected to contribute to regional and global nuclear security capacity-building efforts.
- In February, South Korea's nuclear watchdog said it was expanding its investigation of reactor parts manufactured or certified by foreign companies since 2008 to see if it can find more instances of forged safety certificates.¹³
- In late January, South Korea approved construction of two nuclear reactors - the country’s first since the domestic scandal over faked safety documents and the Fukushima disaster in Japan. Construction of the Shin-Kori No. 5 and No. 6 reactors, both 1,400 megawatts, will begin in September 2014 and is expected to be completed by December 2020. South Korea currently has

¹¹ http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/24/world/asia/japan-to-let-us-assume-control-of-nuclear-cache.html?hpw&rref=world&_r=1

¹² <http://www.economist.com/blogs/banyan/2014/03/japans-nuclear-watchdog>

¹³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/02/07/us-nuclear-korea-idUSBREA160C820140207>

11 more reactors planned by 2027, but experts claim it will have to build more to satisfy surging power demand.¹⁴

- As the Chair of the 1540 Committee of the UN Security Council in 2013-14, Republic of Korea has been leading the efforts to promote full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540. When Korea presides over the Security Council in May, it will aim to adopt a Presidential Statement on resolution 1540. Korea will also make a contribution of US\$1 million to assist in the activities of the 1540 Committee.

Southeast Asia

Indonesia

- In March, Indonesia submitted a national progress report to the 2014 NSS, which states that the government is in the process of drawing up a draft law on nuclear security to submit to parliament in 2015. Indonesia submitted a National Legislation Implementation Kit as house gift to the Summit, to help states develop their own comprehensive national legislation. Indonesia's progress report can be found here:
<https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/indonesia.pdf>
- Prior to the Summit, Indonesia acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.
- Indonesia plans to establish a Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security and Emergency Preparedness to contribute to the development of nuclear security at the national and regional levels. The Center is expected to be launched in 2014.

Malaysia

- Malaysia submitted a national progress report to the 2014 NSS, which states that Malaysia "is at the final stages of revising its Atomic Energy Licensing Act 1984, that would incorporate the provisions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, and its 2005 Amendment Protocol; the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism; and the Additional Protocol to the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement." The report can be found here:
<https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/malaysia.pdf>
- On 4-7 February, Malaysia co-organised (with Australia, New Zealand and the US), the Tiger Reef Cross-Disciplinary Training Workshop and Tabletop Exercise on Nuclear Forensics. It was hosted in Kuala Lumpur under the framework of the GICNT.

Philippines

- The Philippines' 2014 NSS national progress report pledged the establishment of a National Nuclear Security Support Centre in the 2nd quarter of 2014. According to the report, the Centre will manage border control, physical protection, front line officer training, response training, and security culture. This may expand to information and cyber security training. The report can be

¹⁴ <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-01-29/south-korea-approves-first-new-reactors-since-fukushima-1-.html>

found here:

https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/ns_summit_2014_progress_report-philippines.pdf

- In January, the Philippine Star reported that energy officials in the Philippines are studying the potential to refurbish the mothballed Bataan nuclear plant. The country's energy secretary, Jericho Petilla recently said reopening the project is a possibility, due to rising power demand and costs.¹⁵ A feasibility study is currently underway, and the conclusions will be released in 2016.

Singapore

- Singapore submitted a national report to the 2014 NSS, which can be found here: <https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/singapore.pdf>. Singapore's Summit statement emphasized the connection between nuclear safety and security, which "is especially important to our region as countries expand, contemplate or launch their first nuclear power programmes."¹⁶

Thailand

- In its 2014 NSS national progress report, Thailand announced that it will construct a Nuclear and Radiation Technical Support Center for regulating and monitoring the safety and security of nuclear energy, nuclear non-proliferation and for promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Center will include a nuclear forensics laboratory, a radiological early warning system, metrology instruments, an environmental monitoring laboratory, a nuclear non-proliferation center and offer dose assessments. Thailand's progress report can be found here: <https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/thailand.pdf>
- On 5 March, the National Nuclear Security Administration, the Customs Department of the Kingdom of Thailand, the Port Authority of Thailand, and the Thai Office of Atoms for Peace held a transition ceremony to transfer the radiation detection system installed at Laem Chabang Port, to Thailand. Thailand now has full responsibility for maintaining the equipment and training the operators. The event recognized the success of U.S.-Thai cooperation in border monitoring and nuclear security.¹⁷
- In February, Thailand hosted the Fourth South-East Asian Regional Review Meeting on Radioactive Source Security.
- In February, the design basis threat of the Thai research reactor was reviewed by the national regulatory body, operator and related national security organizations.
- On 28 – 30 January, Thailand hosted an informal consultation between ASEANTOM and the European Commission Joint Research Centre, with participation from the IAEA. Discussions were held on the possibilities for cooperation on a project aimed at enhancing the security of nuclear and radioactive materials.

¹⁵http://nuclearstreet.com/nuclear_power_industry_news/b/nuclear_power_news/archive/2014/01/09/government-in-philippines-takes-another-look-at-mothballed-nuclear-plant-010902.aspx#.U1DkaP2KC71

¹⁶ https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/national_statement_singapore.pdf

¹⁷ <http://nnsa.energy.gov/mediaroom/pressreleases/sldthailand>

Vietnam

- Vietnam also submitted a national progress report to the 2014 NSS, which can be found here: <https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/vietnam.pdf>
- On 26 February, Vietnam, the Republic of Korea and the IAEA signed a "Letter of Intent" to implement a Pilot Project for a Radioactive Source Location Tracking System in Vietnam, contributing to the security of radioactive sources. This aims to fulfill the commitment made by Vietnam's Prime Minister and ROK President at the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in 2012.
- In February, Obama approved a civilian nuclear pact with Vietnam which could lead to the sale of U.S. reactors to Vietnam. Under the accord, Vietnam has committed to purchase nuclear fuel from overseas suppliers. The deal has been widely reported in the media in Southeast Asia, and has been particularly closely followed in Thailand.¹⁸
- In January, Vietnam's atomic energy commission confirmed that construction on Vietnam's first nuclear power plant will be delayed by two to three years, due to safety concerns following the nuclear disaster at Fukushima. Construction, which was originally scheduled to begin in 2015, will not begin until 2017 at the earliest.¹⁹ (Despite these delays, Vietnam is still leading the field in nuclear energy development in Southeast Asia).

South Asia

India

- India submitted a national progress report to the 2014 NSS, setting out (very limited) details of the nuclear and radiological initiatives India has conducted since the first Summit in 2010. (India's report is notably short at just two pages; Singapore's is twice as long, despite Singapore's lack of nuclear infrastructure). Based on information provided in the report, the pace of implementing commitments appears to have been slow in India. For example, the report states that land has been acquired for the construction of India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership, which India announced in Washington DC in 2010, but the Centre's physical infrastructure is still pending, and no date is given for its completion. India's national progress report can be found here: <https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/india.pdf>
- On 18 March, in the lead up to the NSS, P. R. Chari (visiting professor at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies in New Delhi) published an article in which he explained India's reservations over the Summit process. He acknowledged that the summits have elicited India's commitment to stronger security measures, but failed to convince New Delhi to increase transparency regarding its nuclear security practices. He explained that "So far, the summits have proved unable to break through India's penchant for secrecy on what it considers to be matters of national security, so the country's nuclear security arrangements remain somewhat opaque."²⁰
- In March, during nuclear energy talks with the United States, India put forward an insurance plan for nuclear suppliers that is consistent with Indian liability law but is also intended to be

¹⁸ <http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/396846/obama-approves-vietnam-nuclear-deal>

¹⁹ <http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NP-Vietnamese-delay-confirmed-2801141.html>

²⁰ <http://carnegieendowment.org/2014/03/18/india-s-role-in-hague-nuclear-security-summit/h4iw>

more acceptable to private companies. Concerns over these arrangements have been holding up US-India civil nuclear cooperation.²¹

- On 4 March, an op-ed in Pakistan's *Daily Times* claimed that "developments regarding India's nuclear doctrine may convert the country into a potential source of nuclear terrorism. The mad pursuit of research and development in ballistic missile defence is totally inconsistent with a no-first-use posture and rather adds to unpredictability and uncertainty."²²
- On 10 February, Vijay Shankar (Former Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Forces Command of India) called on India and Pakistan to agree and implement concrete nuclear risk reduction measures. Both countries have endorsed the idea, but the only meaningful measure in place is mutual notification of ballistic missile flight tests. Shankar claims that increasing nuclear ambiguities, devolution of control and a lack of transparency is increasing nuclear risks across the board in South Asia.²³
- On 25 January, the Prime Ministers of India and Japan met to discuss a civil nuclear cooperation deal that would allow Japanese companies to export civil nuclear technology and equipment to India.²⁴
- In early January, a ceremony was held to mark the start of construction on the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership near New Delhi. It will house five schools to conduct research into advanced nuclear energy systems, nuclear security, radiological safety, and applications for radioisotopes and radiation technologies. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said strengthening the security of India's nuclear power plants and nuclear materials will be an important focus of the Centre, which will also promote international cooperation in this area.²⁵
- In late December 2013 and early January 2014, reports circulated in the Indian media about a plan by the leader of the Indian Mujahideen to procure a nuclear weapon from Pakistan for use in a terrorist attack on Surat.²⁶

Pakistan

- Pakistan did not submit a national progress report to the 2014 NSS. However, Pakistan's national statement to the Summit outlined Pakistan's approach to nuclear security - it emphasized sovereignty issues, and did not express support for nuclear security regime-building. The national statement can be found here: <https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/pakistan.pdf>. In a statement during the informal plenary session on 25 March, Sharif indicated that Pakistan believes that the IAEA's existing mandate will allow it to play a nuclear security coordination role after 2016, and that

²¹ <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-gives-US-insurance-plan-for-nuclear-plants/articleshow/31915081.cms>

²² <http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/opinion/04-Mar-2014/india-s-emerging-nuclear-posture>

²³ <http://www.eurasiareview.com/10022014-india-pakistan-nuclear-risk-reduction-measures-analysis/>

²⁴ http://www.pennenergy.com/articles/pennenergy/2014/02/heavy-lifting-ahead-in-the-japan-india-nuclear-power-deal.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+nuclear-generation-news+%28PPG+-+Nuclear+Generation+News%29

²⁵ <http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NN-Indian-research-centre-takes-shape-0301144.html>

²⁶ <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Indian-Mujahideen-wanted-to-nuke-Surat-Yasin-Bhatkal-tells-cops/articleshow/28116663.cms?referral=PM>

the Summit process should not continue at the leadership level.²⁷ At the meeting, Sharif said Pakistan's nuclear materials, facilities and assets were safe and secure and the country's nuclear security regime was anchored in the principle of multi-layered defence for the entire spectrum – insider, outsider or cyber threats.²⁸

- In March, Dr. Ansar Parvez, head of Pakistan's Atomic Energy Commission, announced that Pakistan plans to build three new nuclear plants to produce 8800 MW of electricity per annum by 2030, "to overcome an energy bottleneck causing 20-hour-long power blackouts daily."²⁹
- In February, a senior Pakistani government official said that Pakistan's leaders would not delegate advance authority over nuclear arms to unit commanders, even in the event of a crisis with India. Apparently, from "the smallest to the largest -- all weapons are under the central control of the National Command Authority, which is headed by the prime minister."³⁰
- In January, India and Pakistan exchanged lists of their nuclear facilities as part of a 1988 pact that bars them from attacking each other's nuclear installations. The exchange, occurring in New Delhi and Islamabad, has been held each New Year's Day since 1992.

²⁷ https://www.nss2014.com/sites/default/files/documents/pakistan-pm_remarks_at_informal_plenary_session_on_25_mar_2014.pdf

²⁸ "Pakistan seeks access to civilian nuclear technology," *The Indian Express*, March 25, 2014.

²⁹ <http://www.worldbulletin.net/news/130953/pakistan-to-build-3-nuclear-plants-for-electricity>

³⁰ <http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/pakistani-leaders-retain-nuclear-arms-authority-crisis-senior-official/>