

## Information Circular

**INFCIRC/769**

Date: 8 September 2009

**General Distribution**

Original: English

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# Communication dated 8 September received from the Resident Representative of Australia to the Agency concerning the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Association

The Director General has received a letter dated 8 September 2009 from the Resident Representative of Australia attaching the text of the Statement of Principles of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Association (APSA).

The letter and, as requested therein, the Statement of Principles, are herewith circulated for the information of Member States



**AUSTRALIAN PERMANENT MISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL  
ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, VIENNA**

8 September 2009

**RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE**

Dr Mohammed ElBaradei  
Director General  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Wagramerstrasse 5  
1400 Vienna

Sir,

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Association (APSA) which Australia chairs and which comes into being on 1 October 2009, I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of the Statement of Principles of the APSA. I should be grateful if you could circulate it as an Information Document (INFCIRC) in advance of the IAEA's 53<sup>rd</sup> General Conference.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Potts', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Potts

Copy: Mr Allan Murray, ANSTO; Ms Rhonda Evans, ARPANSA;  
Mr Geoff Shaw, ASNO; Dr Ron Hutchings, Permanent Mission  
File: VI08/00063

## *Asia-Pacific Safeguards Association - Statement of Principles*

Informal draft 18 February 2008

### **Basic Understandings**

1. That all members of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Association (APSA) affirm that:
  - a) the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system makes an essential contribution to efforts to promote international peace and security;
  - b) it is in the interest of all members to assist the IAEA to implement safeguards in the region effectively and efficiently; and
  - c) it is in the interest of all members to ensure that State Systems of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) in the region are able to carry out their safeguards responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

### **Objectives**

2. The objectives of APSA are to improve the quality, effectiveness and efficiency of safeguards implementation in the Asia-Pacific region, by:
  - a) building and supporting nuclear safeguards capacity in the region;
  - b) promoting regional cooperation in nuclear safeguards application and practices;
  - c) facilitating the coordination and provision of nuclear safeguards assistance;
  - d) providing a forum for the sharing of knowledge on nuclear safeguards; and
  - e) developing a network of nuclear safeguards practitioners across the region.

### **Activities**

3. The objectives of the APSA will be achieved through the following activities:
  - a) holding meetings and activities that will provide a forum for safeguards professionals and authorities to interact constructively;
  - b) development of an internet portal and an inclusive email mailing list to provide for convenient and rapid interchange of information in a secure communication environment, to facilitate the sharing of safeguards knowledge and best practice;
  - c) coordinating training on safeguards issues in cooperation with the IAEA, drawing upon the depth of expertise available from regional partners;

- d) cooperating in ensuring that regional professionals are aware of the resources and assistance available in the region, matching the safeguards needs and resources of regional states;
- e) providing opportunities for professional exchanges between regional counterparts, recognising that such exchanges are a useful tool for professional development;
- f) facilitating collaboration on research and development in safeguards and related fields and the application of such R&D; and
- g) provide other support and assistance on safeguards issues.

## **Membership**

4. The association is intended to be a professional association drawing upon the expertise available in the Asia-Pacific region to ensure that safeguards activities in the region are conducted to a high standard.
5. Membership of APSA is open to any government or government-affiliated organisation that is involved in the application, implementation or development of safeguards in the Asia-Pacific region. The IAEA would have permanent observer status in the association.
6. Organisations may join the association by accepting this Statement of Principles.

## **Organisation and Structure**

7. The Association Chair will be appointed by the members for a period of two years, and the Chair will be rotated through member organisations.
8. The Chair will be responsible for calling meetings of the association and will provide any necessary secretarial function.
9. A central point of contact will be established to provide long term continuity for association communications.
10. Unless otherwise agreed, members will fund their own participation in association activities.
11. This Statement of Principles may be changed by mutual agreement of member organisations.

## **Funding**

12. There should not be any form of regular contribution or membership fee.