

Information Circular

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General Distribution

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Communication received from the Resident Representative of Australia to the Agency concerning the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network

The Director General has received a letter dated 16 September 2009 from the Resident Representative of Australia to the Agency attaching the text of the Statement of Principles of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN).

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**

16 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 Network (APSN) 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 APSN. I should be grateful if you could circulate it as an Information Document (INFCIRC).

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michael Potts'.

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 Network - Statement of Principles

16 April 2009

Basic Understandings

1. All members of the Asia-Pacific Safeguards Network (APSN) (hereafter referred to as the Network) affirm that:
 - a) the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards system makes an essential contribution to efforts in ensuring the peaceful uses of nuclear energy;
 - b) it is in the interest of all members that IAEA safeguards are implemented effectively and efficiently; and
 - c) it is in the interest of all members that each individual State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC) in the region is able to meet its safeguards responsibilities effectively and efficiently.

Objectives

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

Activities

3. The objectives of the Network will be achieved through activities including the following, making best use of relevant existing activities conducted by the member organisations and the IAEA;
 - a) holding meetings and other such activities that will provide a forum for safeguards professionals and authorities to interact constructively;
 - b) developing 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 and supporting training on safeguards issues in cooperation with the IAEA, drawing upon the depth of expertise available from regional partners;

- d) cooperating in making available to professionals of member organisations information on resources and assistance, matching the safeguards needs and resources of states in the region;
 - e) providing opportunities for professional exchange programs between member organisations, recognising that such exchanges are a useful tool for professional development;
 - f) facilitating collaboration in research and development, and development of analytical capabilities, in safeguards and related fields and the application of such research, development and analysis;
 - g) providing other technical support and assistance on safeguards issues; and
 - h) undertaking other activities of interest to member organisations.
4. The Network will not include an inspectorate or undertake verification activities.

Membership

5. The Network is intended to be a professional network drawing upon the expertise available in the Asia-Pacific region to ensure that safeguards activities in the region are conducted to IAEA standards.
6. Membership of the Network is open to any government or government-affiliated organisation that is responsible for the application, implementation or development of safeguards in sovereign states in the Asia-Pacific region.
7. Eligible organisations of the states listed in the Annex to this Statement represented at the meeting of 16 April 2009 may join the Network by notification without any further approval. Eligible organisations of the other states listed in the Annex may join the Network by notifying the Chair in writing that they accept the Statement of Principles.
8. Eligible organisations of states not listed in the Annex may join the Network by notifying the Chair in writing that they accept the Statement of Principles and if accepted by consensus of the members existing at the time of application.
9. The IAEA will have permanent observer status in the Network.

Organisation and Structure

10. The Chair of the Network will be an individual nominated by a member organisation and appointed by the members by consensus for a period of two years, which may be extended. Members will endeavour to rotate the Chair on the basis of the states from which member organisations are drawn.
11. The Chair will be responsible for calling meetings of the Network and will be responsible for arranging any necessary Secretariat function. If necessary, the members may establish additional mechanisms to carry out effectively the objectives of the Network.

12. Members may appoint a Deputy Chair.

13. This Statement of Principles may be amended by consensus.

Funding

14. There will not be any form of regular contribution or membership fee.

15. Unless otherwise agreed, members will fund their own participation in Network activities.

Commencement, Duration and Withdrawal

16. The Network will commence on 1 October 2009. The Network will continue indefinitely unless otherwise decided by the members.

17. A member has the right to withdraw from the Network after notifying the Chair in writing of its wish to withdraw and upon confirmation of the Chair of receipt of the letter.

ANNEX

List of states from which eligible organisations may join NETWORK in accordance with paragraph 7

Those represented at the meeting of 16 April 2009 are shown in bold:

Australia	New Zealand
Canada	Philippines
China	Russia
Indonesia	Singapore
Japan	Thailand
Republic of Korea	Vietnam
Malaysia	United States