

NSS 2014 – NATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT Republic of the Philippines

The Philippines stands firm in its commitment to strengthen its nuclear and radiological security infrastructure in line with the objectives of the Nuclear Security Summit. Apart from its efforts domestically, the Philippines also remains a proud and active member of such groups as the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (joined 2010) and the G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction (joined 2013). Cooperative efforts in such groups have allowed the Philippines to boost its efforts in capacity-building, while also providing an opportunity to share its own knowledge and best practices to other States. Bilaterally, the Philippines has sought to make nuclear and radiological issues a key point in security-related discussions, oftentimes resulting in concrete instances of cooperation with partner States. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also continues to be a valuable partner through various technical cooperation projects that have allowed the Philippines to harness the potential of nuclear technology in a safe, secure and peaceful manner.

1. Support for CPPNM and ICSANT

The Philippines has cooperated with the IAEA in organizing a National Workshop on Nuclear Security focusing on the 2005 Amendment to the CPPNM. Bilateral meetings were also arranged with the Senate and House of Representatives to promote the Amendment and other relevant conventions that the Philippines has signed but has yet to ratify.

2. Strengthened National Nuclear and Radiological Material Security System

The Philippines through the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) has developed regulations on the Security of Radioactive Sources (CPR Part 26), and Security Requirements in the Transport of Radioactive Material (CPR Part 27) based on the IAEA Nuclear Security Series documents.

Under the bilateral cooperation with the United States of America, the Philippines conducts several projects to ensure the security of nuclear and radiological material sources.

All Category 1 sources in licensed facilities and PNRI facilities were upgraded with security alarm systems through our project with the US DOE Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI). As a requirement of their license, facilities are implementing their approved Security Plan. The PNRI also received two (2) transport

vehicles customized with extra security features especially designed in transporting high activity sources. Complementing the transport security vehicles is the Transport Control Center at PNRI which monitors, controls, and coordinates the movement of high activity radioactive material within the territory of the Philippines.

The successful completion of the project on Conditioning of Spent High Activity Radioactive Sources (SHARS) was undertaken in April 2013 under the trilateral cooperation among the Philippines, South Africa and the International Atomic Energy Agency. The mobile hot cell was deployed in the premises of the PNRI. Spent Co-60 sources were retrieved from source heads of teletherapy machines and stored in secure stainless steel canisters ready for disposal in boreholes when available.

The Philippines has been adhering to the principles of the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources and the Guidance on Import and Export of Radioactive Sources since 2004, and has revised its Action Plan to further strengthen its regulatory control effectiveness. The Philippines has demonstrated improvements in many areas covered in the Code of Conduct.

3. Contribution to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Related Activities

The Philippines has actively participated in the nuclear security-related activities of the IAEA. The IAEA Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) to support the implementation of the Philippine National Nuclear Security Plan in 2010 was reviewed and updated in April 2013 for implementation from the period 2013-2015.

The Philippines actively contributes to the development of the Nuclear Security Series by participating in the Nuclear Security Guidance Committee. The Philippines is also a member of the IAEA Working Group on Radioactive Source Security which aims to foster better coordination between other initiatives in order to improve the provision of technical assistance related to the protection and control of radioactive sources.

The Philippines has received International Physical Protection Advisory Service (IPPAS) in 2003 and International Nuclear Security Advisory Service (INSServ) in 2008. The recommendations from IPPAS and INSServ were mostly implemented.

As a participating Member State to the IAEA Incident and Trafficking Database, the PNRI shares information on any loss, theft and recovery of orphan sources.

4. Support for Nuclear Security-Related International Initiatives

The Philippines joined the Global Initiatives to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) in 2010, and has been actively participating in the GICNT-Implementation and Assessment Group (IAG) meetings.

The Philippines has been participating in the Global Threat Reduction Initiative (GTRI) and started cooperation with the US Department of Energy (DOE) in 2004. Security upgrades in 10 medical facilities with high risk radioactive sources as well as in PNRI critical facilities were implemented to harden access control. The GTRI project was extended to include category 2 sources in the security enhancements. The project has been assisting the PNRI to formulate the requisite rules and regulations on nuclear security. Thus, the PNRI issued a regulation, CPR Part 26 "Security of Radioactive Sources" in 2007. Revision of the CPR Part 26 is completed to incorporate the IAEA Nuclear Security Implementing Guide No.11. Further, CPR Part 27, "Security Requirements in Transport of Radioactive Material " was published in November 2013. Two (2) transport vehicles equipped with security alarm system have been turned over to PNRI, and a Transportation Communication Center (TCC) has been established in the PNRI. The PNRI entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine National Police in 2010 for Radiological Security Incident Response and training. Under the MOA, three training courses for the PNP first responders have been conducted.

The Philippines supports the following NSS gift baskets: the Indonesian legislation implementation kit, the UK initiative on information security, the Canadian and ROK initiative on supporting the 1540 UNSC Resolution, the US DOE/ROK/NL's initiative on strengthening nuclear security implementation, the Italian initiative on establishing the Nuclear Security Support Centre, Jordan's Counter Nuclear Smuggling, Brazil's Comprehensive Approach to Nuclear Security, and the HEU-free Joint Statement of the US.

5. Contribution to Minimization of HEU

The Philippines converted to LEU TRIGA fuels for its research reactor in 1988. The HEU spent fuels were sent to the USA in March 1999 under the US Return of Foreign Research Reactor (FRR) fuel policy.

6. Establishment of a Centre of Excellence

The Philippines through the PNRI will establish a National Nuclear Security Support Centre in the 2nd quarter of 2014. 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 regional secretariat for the EU CBRN Center of Excellence is the Anti-Terrorism Council. The National CBRN Action Plan as well as the Assessment toolkit for CBRN risk are being finalized. The Plan will facilitate a coherent and effective approach to CBRN capacity building.

7. Enhanced Efforts in Combating Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear and Radiological Materials

The Philippines participates in the IAEA Incident Trafficking Database. The Philippine National Police (PNP) will be equipped with a Mobile Detection System through the assistance of the US Second Line of Defense Program. This will enhance capabilities of the PNP for preventing, mitigating, and apprehending suspects and criminals in the act of radiological and nuclear material smuggling.

The Port of Manila and the Cebu Port have Radiation Portal Monitors (RPMs) installed. The customs and port operators are well-trained to interdict any radiological and nuclear materials at the ports.

Under the cooperation and collaboration of the Philippines with the EU under the EC-IFS Project, with the US-DOE under the Megaports Initiative Project, and with the IAEA under INSSP and the NSSC, the Nuclear Training Center of the PNRI undertakes the training of frontline officers and other stakeholders involved in border control, which will ensure the sustainability of human resource development in nuclear security.

The above are updates on actions taken by the Philippines to ensure nuclear security. It is committed to the nuclear security process. It will continue to work with the international community in realizing our collective objectives.

