



Monthly Newsletter



Sixth meeting of representatives of competent authorities to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, Vienna, Austria

GCC countries come together to cooperate on Nuclear Waste Disposal

Delegates from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries discussed possibilities for joint activities in developing and implementing their radioactive waste and spent fuel management programmes.

The venue was a workshop on 'Supporting Radioactive Waste Disposal in Newcomer Member States – Regional Collaboration on Radioactive Waste Management in MENA Countries'. The workshop was hosted by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in cooperation with Arius Association.

Around 35 officials from UAE organisations participated at workshop between 16 to 18 April 2012.

Many countries in the MENA region are considering or already embarking on nuclear power programmes for the first time. Accordingly, they are devising efficient plans for safe and secure management of radioactive waste, which is a significant component for the development of a national nuclear infrastructure.

In this regard, the UAE has been chosen as a host country since it has the most progressive nuclear power programme in the region and given its leading role in

the region. The UAE is committed to develop a comprehensive radioactive waste management strategy that involves developing a national strategy and disposal programme in parallel with exploring regional and international cooperation options.

During the three-day workshop, participants were introduced to the IAEA's measures on radioactive waste management and cooperation between countries, also to current existing waste management situation globally, and overviewed potential areas for cooperation.



Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, opening speech to the waste management meeting participants

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Issue: April 2012

Highlights of the month (April 2012):

- Regional cooperation on nuclear waste disposal
- Working towards an improved emergency preparedness and response
- Global partnership on improving national nuclear infrastructure
- GCC countries reviews the progress of regional TC projects
- Relocation of the Permanent Mission's Office

"The provision of adequate handling for waste disposal in a responsible manner, an integral component of the UAE's national nuclear energy program"

Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi



The opening ceremony of the workshop was inaugurated by Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, the UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA, and Mr. Lumir Nachmilner, Officer for the IAEA's Waste Technology department.

The opening remarks of the workshop emphasized the importance of adequately handling waste management in a responsible manner, UAE's approach and potential regional cooperation in this area.

This training meeting has summarized the IAEA recommendations for all new national programmes and indicated the potential benefits of regional cooperation.

The meeting concluded that the collaboration between states should be focused not only in sharing repositories and storage facilities also in all relevant areas of cooperation such as research, information and knowledge exchange through joint projects.

Working towards an Improved Emergency Preparedness and Response

The UAE's experts took part in a discussion on developments in international emergency preparedness and response, with a special focus on the nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi power plants.

Organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the 'Sixth Meeting of Representatives of Competent Authorities identified under the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency' took place in Vienna, from 16 to 20 April 2012.

The Competent Authorities meeting reviewed and evaluated the response to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plants, particularly the response at the national and international levels, as well as in the IAEA's capacity. It also assessed the progress in the implementation of the Action Plan on Nuclear Safety, which was approved by the Board of Governors last year, after the accident.

Participants familiarized with forthcoming IAEA publications and tools relevant to emergency preparedness and response to address communications under the Conventions and publications on operational intervention levels for a severe nuclear accident.

"We did share lessons identified in the response. We did review the progress since our previous meeting in 2009. We did discuss all the main issues how to improve for the way forward the emergency preparedness and response arrangements", commented Rafael Martincic, IAEA Scientific Secretary for Incident Emergency Centre.

He emphasized that conclusions and recommendation of this meeting are mostly based on the lessons identified in response to the Fukushima accident.

"I hope Lessons will be learned and implemented. And if they will be implemented, then that will contribute to improve and enhance emergency preparedness and response at the national, international and also IAEA level" he added.

"The *Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency* and the *Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident* are the prime legal instruments that establish an international framework to facilitate the exchange of information and the prompt provision of assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency. They place specific obligations on the Parties and the IAEA, with the aim of minimizing consequences for health, property and the environment."



IAEA fact-finding team in Japan visit the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant after the accident

Both the "Early Notification Convention" and the "Assistance Convention" were adopted right after the Chernobyl accident in 1986. Competent Authorities meet every three years to discuss how they implementing those two conventions and share experiences and challenges in emergency preparedness and response to radiation emergencies.

Competent Authorities, including representatives from international organizations, from 58 States are party to at least one of the Early Notification and Assistance Conventions.

The UAE is a party to both Conventions since 1987.



Global Partnership on Improving National Nuclear Infrastructure

The UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA, Ambassador Alkaabi joined a group of experts to provide advice to the IAEA and to support development and implementation of national nuclear power programmes at the working group meeting held 24 April 2012.

This third 'Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Nuclear Power Infrastructure (TWG-NPI)' took place at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, from 24 to 27 April 2012.

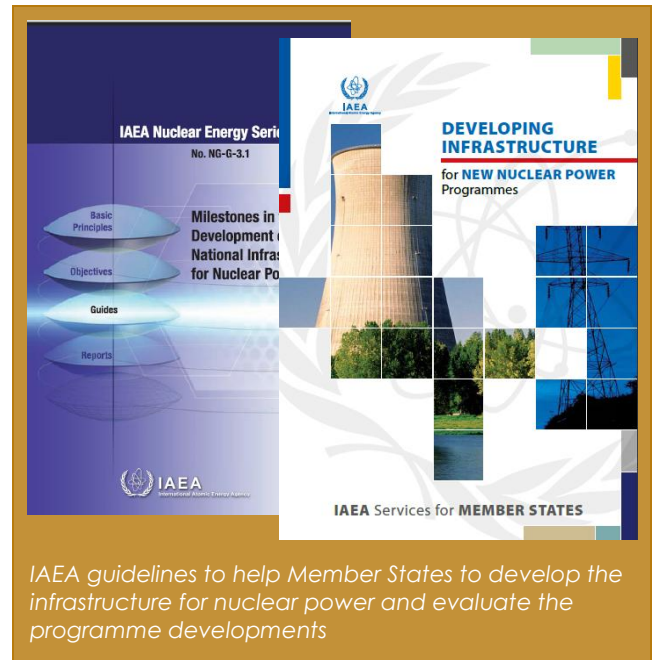
Along with international experts from twenty-one Member States with established National Nuclear Power Programmes (NNPPs) and from countries considering establishing NNPPs, the meeting discussed development and implementation of national nuclear power programmes and analyzed all relevant aspects of infrastructure development.

The meeting reviewed amendments to the IAEA documents for introduction of nuclear power.

To ensure comprehensive guidance and recommendations in support of interested Member States, the meeting provided advice on policies and strategies implemented and pursued by the IAEA based on recent improvements and best practices on infrastructure development for national nuclear power programmes.

The scope of issues discussed during the working group comprise common challenges in developing nuclear

power infrastructure and the IAEA assistance, impact of the Fukushima accident on the IAEA Milestones approach, development of a national position and as well as capacity building in nuclear power programme.



IAEA guidelines to help Member States to develop the infrastructure for nuclear power and evaluate the programme developments

GCC countries reviews and assess progress of regional TC projects

Representatives of the UAE participated in a coordination meeting to review on-going Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) regional projects with the IAEA on nuclear power, at the IAEA Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, from 12 to 13 April 2012.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the three Technical Cooperation regional projects in the areas of capacity building, developing nuclear infrastructure, and enhancing legislative and safety infrastructure, ongoing in the GCC countries.

The coordination meeting analyzed the current status of the implementation of the three TC GCC projects and made recommendations for the future projects based on the lessons learned from these projects.

To facilitate the setting of the action plan for 2012-2013, the results of the GCC Strategic Study on the Assessment of Regional Cooperation in the Development of Civilian Nuclear Power Programmes have been presented at the meeting.

Furthermore the different areas of cooperation for the GCC based on the recommendations of this study, and the last

GCC Ministerial Conference decisions have been highlighted during the meeting to guide future work in these areas.



The Permanent Mission actively engages with the IAEA TC Department in various meetings among which coordination meetings, to plan upcoming TC projects



About the Permanent Mission

The UAE has been a member of the IAEA since 1976. The Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the IAEA acts as the main liaison between the UAE government and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria.

The office of the Permanent Mission was established in 2008. The objective of the Mission is to represent the interests of the UAE Government at the IAEA and to facilitate the UAE's engagement and cooperation with the IAEA in the areas of nuclear safety, nuclear security, non-proliferation and safeguards, technical cooperation and in the implementation of relevant international obligations.

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Relocation of the Permanent Mission's Offices

The UAE Permanent Mission to the IAEA offices has been relocated to new premises as of the 20th April 2012. The new office is located on Chimanistrasse Street, in one of Vienna's famous districts. The address is as follows:

Chimanistrasse 36, A-1190 Vienna, Austria

We continue to use the present telephone and fax machine numbers, which are:

**Tel: +43 1 715 0028
Fax: +43 1 715 0025**



New building of the UAE Permanent Mission's Office in Vienna

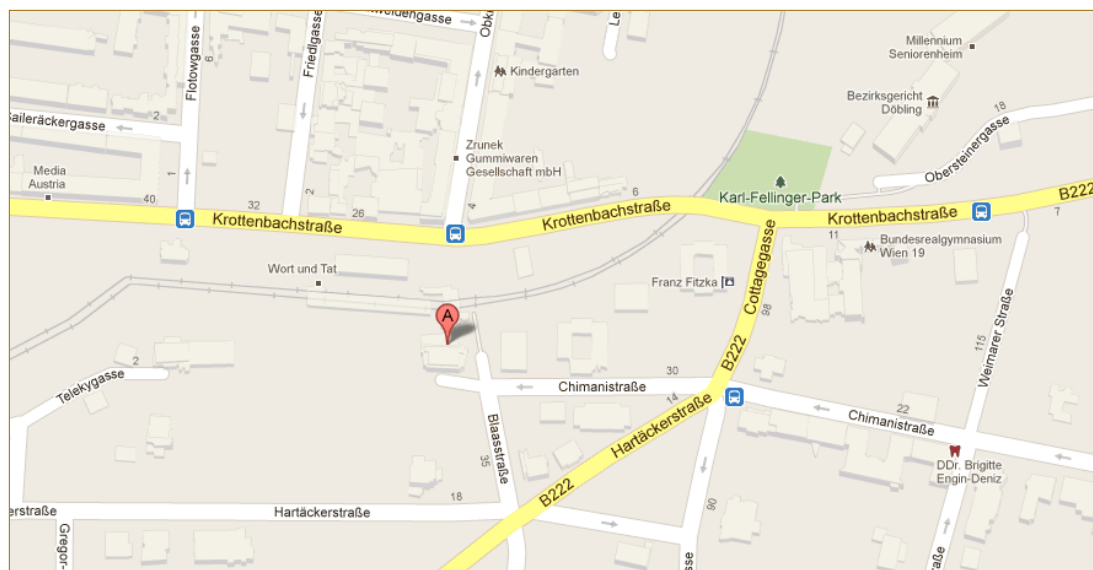


The new office of the Permanent Mission is located in the 19th district. Rich in greenery and replete with many magnificent old houses, the area hosts the official residency of the President of Austria.

Our new facility offers convenient space capacity for the Permanent Mission, the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates and the Consulate which are gradually being relocated to the new premises.

This office is located right next to the city train station city SBahn S45 (Krottenbachstrasse), providing excellent connection to the city center and beyond.

We are very pleased to welcome all of our friends and colleagues to visit us at the new offices. Below is the location map.



Location map of the new premises of the UAE Permanent Mission to the IAEA in Vienna