



# Monthly Newsletter



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## In Focus: Establishing a Nuclear Liability Regime in UAE

Development of the UAE's infrastructure for nuclear power began in 2008 with the issuance of the *Nuclear Policy*, and later, establishment of the *Federal Law regarding the Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy* in 2009.

Today, the country has started construction of its first nuclear power plant at Barakah, pouring the first batch of nuclear safety concrete on 18 July 2012.

### Legal basis of the nuclear liability

The UAE recognizes the importance of having effective civil liability regime in place to ensure predictable compensation against harm to human health and the environment, as well as economic loss caused by nuclear damage.

In 2012, the Government took a significant step forward establishing the liability regime for nuclear damage by becoming a party to the international conventions on nuclear third party liability through acceding basic international instruments:

- *the Protocol to Amend the 1963 Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage; and*

- *the Joint Protocol on the Application of the Vienna and Paris Conventions.*

By joining to these conventions, the UAE meets its policy commitments and further demonstrates its responsible approach in developing peaceful nuclear energy programme.

The international liability regime defines a framework for organizing responsibly the mechanism for compensation for damage after a nuclear accident.



*Ambassador Alkaabi handing over the instruments of accession to the Vienna Convention and the Joint Protocol to Ms. Peri Lynne Johnson of the OLA IAEA, 29 May 2012*

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## A clear and comprehensive legal framework for Nuclear Liability

The UAE has issued a *Federal Law by Decree No. 4 of 2012 concerning Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage*, as a result of continued work in establishing adequate legal framework for its nuclear liability regime.

The new Federal Law provides a legal regime to ensure that those who suffer damages as a result of a nuclear accident have recourse to adequate compensation.

"This Law was drafted in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage as amended by the 1997 Protocol, which the UAE acceded to in August 2012," said Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi during a press conference in Abu Dhabi, on 15 October 2012.

Under the new Federal Law the operator of a nuclear facility is solely and exclusively liable for damages arising from a nuclear incident as defined in the 1997 Vienna Convention.

The operator's liability under this Federal Law by Decree is set not exceed 450 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which is equivalent to roughly 2.5 billion UAE Dirhams.

The provisions of the law are in line with the UAE international obligations and best international practices. The text and provisions of this law have been under consultation and reviewed by the IAEA Legal experts to ensure its consistency with IAEA guidance and relevant international obligations.



*Ambassador Alkaabi explain the provisions of the Federal Law concerning civil liability for nuclear damage during a press conference, Abu Dhabi, 15 October 2012 (Photo: The National)*

"The establishment of such a robust nuclear liability regime is another step forward of the UAE Government's responsible approach to develop a solid regulatory framework for the peaceful nuclear energy programme," highlighted Ambassador Alkaabi. "This new liability regime provides a clear and predictable process for the public and nuclear industry to deal with compensation for damages that may arise in the case of a nuclear accident."

The information sheet on the *Federal Law by Decree No 4 of 2012, Concerning Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage* is available on the FANR website: [http://www.fanr.gov.ae/En/MediaCentre/News/Documents/Civil\\_Liability\\_Nuclear\\_Damage\\_Law\\_Information\\_Sheet\\_\(SDJ\).pdf](http://www.fanr.gov.ae/En/MediaCentre/News/Documents/Civil_Liability_Nuclear_Damage_Law_Information_Sheet_(SDJ).pdf)

## Preparing for 2013 Symposium on Nuclear Security

The UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA, Ambassador Alkaabi, a member of the *Programme Committee*, joined the other members in preparation of the *Symposium on Nuclear Security in 2013*, held from 22 to 24 October 2012 at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop detailed plans for the *2013 International Conference on Nuclear Security: Enhancing Global Efforts* to be held on 24-28 June, next year in Vienna.

This Programme Committee meeting was a continuation of the previous two meetings, which took a lead on 12 March this year, by a group of prominent international experts in the field of nuclear security to act as a Programme Committee for the 2013 Nuclear Security Symposium.

The aim of the International Symposium for Nuclear Security is to bring together government officials, representatives of national Competent Authorities, other representatives from international organizations and initiatives, civil society and academic, and members of the nuclear industry, to consider possible measures and means for further improving national, regional and global nuclear security taking into account developments and new challenges since the last Symposium, which took place in 2009.

The outcomes of the Symposium will have a major impact on the formation of the IAEA's next nuclear security plan for 2014-2017.

For more information on the 2013 International Symposium on Nuclear Security, see the link: <http://www-pub.iaea.org/iaea/meetings/43046/International-Conference-on-Nuclear-Security-Enhancing-Global-Efforts>



## IAEA TCAP Director Meets with UAE Stakeholders to Discuss Technical Cooperation

From 6 to 11 October 2012, Dr. Ali Boussaha, Director for the IAEA's Technical Cooperation Division for Asia and the Pacific (TCAP) visited the UAE to meet with key national stakeholders of the TC programme.

During the one-week visit, Dr. Boussaha met with officials of the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR), the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC), Dubai Health Authority (DHA), heads of educational institutions such as Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research (KU), University of Sharjah (UoS), and American University of Sharjah (AUS) to discuss the implementation of ongoing TC projects with the Agency as well as the planning of future projects, to facilitate technical cooperation between UAE and the IAEA.

Discussions involved key areas such as the UAE nuclear power programme, radiation safety, establishment of the SSDL (Secondary Standards Dosimetry Laboratory) as well as environmental health, radiation safety and other areas of cooperation in nuclear medicine.

Discussions also focused on capacity building and the development of human resources in the different areas of cooperation in nuclear power as well as non-power applications.

The interaction between the UAE and the IAEA Department of Technical Cooperation goes through the division for Asia and the Pacific (TCAP). Through its active participation in several national, regional and interregional TC projects, the UAE benefits from the transfer of nuclear technology, knowledge and expertise, but also shares its experience with other Member States.

The UAE currently has 5 ongoing TC projects with the Agency and is planning three future ones for the upcoming TC cycle 2014-2015.

Throughout the implementation of national TC projects, all stakeholders in the UAE nuclear power programme cooperate closely and engage extensively in various activities aimed not only at acquiring but also sharing nuclear knowledge. Through activities in collaboration with the IAEA such as inter alia, international meetings, workshops, trainings, fellowships, and scientific visits, and coordinated research projects, the UAE sustainably develops its national capacity.

During his visit, Dr. Boussaha had a series of meetings in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah emirates with stakeholders of the UAE technical cooperation programme, and discussed the needs of the UAE and how to fill existing gaps through IAEA services and transfer of knowledge.



*Dr. Ali Boussaha, IAEA TCAP Director and Mr. Christer Viktorsson, FANR Head of Operations Department during the visit to FANR's Headquarters, Abu Dhabi (Photo: FANR)*

During the first day of his visit to FANR's headquarters in Abu Dhabi, Dr. Boussaha was welcomed by Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, UAE Permanent Representative to the IAEA, which was followed by meetings with key stakeholders of the UAE nuclear power programme FANR and ENEC. They discussed past and current TC projects in key areas of technical cooperation such as protection of the environment, radioactive waste management, and radiation protection.

The following days, Dr. Boussaha met top officials of educational institutions: Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research (KU), University of Sharjah (UoS), as well as the American University of Sharjah (AUS) to discuss nuclear education and training projects to enhance UAE's efforts to the advancement of nuclear industry. The meetings highlighted the success of the Gulf Nuclear Energy Infrastructure Institute (GNEII), a joint program with the UAE key stakeholders FANR, ENEC, Critical Infrastructure and Coastal Protection Authority (CICPA) in collaboration with US stakeholders.

At his visit to Dubai Health Authority (DHA), Dr. Boussaha and the hospital officials emphasized patient radiation safety issues and how IAEA can assist UAE in enhancing radiation safety nationally as well as responding to their needs in healthcare involving nuclear technology.

Dr. Boussaha complimented the commitment shown by all stakeholders to cooperation with the Agency for the advancement of the UAE specifically with regard to peaceful nuclear power but also related to non-nuclear applications.



## UAE Receives Expert Mission on Implementation of Radioactive Waste Management Technology and Infrastructure

In relation to the ongoing cooperation with the IAEA in the area of safety of radioactive waste, the UAE benefits from the IAEA assistance in establishing appropriate measures to ensure protection against radiological hazards at all stages of spent fuel and radioactive waste management.

Alongside many other IAEA missions, an expert mission to strengthen the UAE's radioactive waste management programme was held from 14 to 18 October 2012, in Abu Dhabi.

The workshop on *the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management: Classification, Regulations and Demonstration of Safety* was organized by IAEA and hosted by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR).

More than 50 participants from wide range of national authorities, mainly UAE nuclear stakeholders, has received a profound expertise in the areas of development and implementation of radioactive waste management strategy, safety requirements on disposal of radioactive waste, the development of regulations for radioactive waste management, and other relevant technical competencies.

By completion of the workshop, the participants' needs were identified and development of the follow up programme has been considered by the expert mission.

The UAE became a party to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management in 2009.

## Member States Shares Experience on Capacity Building and Human Resources Development

The technical meeting on Capacity Building and Human Resources Development for New and Expanding Nuclear Power Programme was held at the IAEA headquarters from 9 to 12 October 2012.

Officials of the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) attended the meeting to share nuclear operator's experience in developing a robust capacity building infrastructure, in order to ensure a sustainable pool of human resources for the nuclear energy industry.

The main focus of the meeting was to share experience of Member States in the implementation of national policies and approaches related to capacity building and human resources.

Four-days meeting helped participants to identify the various factors that the key stakeholders need to address, in order to ensure that the required numbers of qualified personnel are in place for the safe and efficient operation of nuclear power facilities.

The meeting introduced its participants with the new Nuclear Power Human Resource (NPHR) Modeling Tool, which is similar to IAEA Guidance on the Millstones approach in development of a national infrastructure for nuclear power.

*Participants of the workshop on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management, Abu Dhabi, 14 October 2012 (Photo: FANR)*





## 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Commission on Safety Standards works Towards Strengthening Nuclear Safety in light of Fukushima Accident

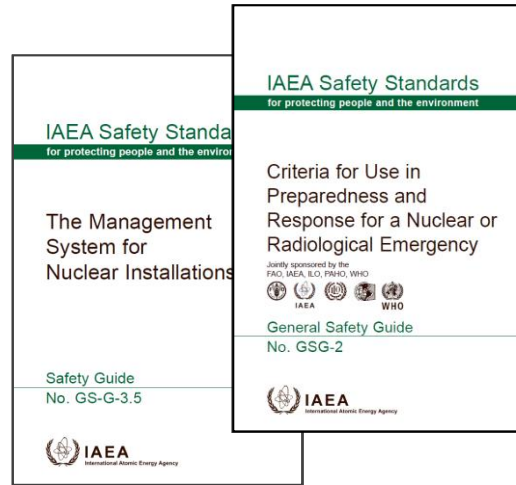
At its 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting from 9 to 11 October 2012, the Commission on Safety Standards (CSS) met to review and revise the IAEA Safety Standards taking into consideration the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident.

During the three-days meeting, senior governmental officials responsible for establishing national standards has reviewed reports of the other safety standards committees such as for radiation safety (RASSC), the safety of radioactive waste (WASSC), and the safe transport of radioactive material (TRANSSC).

The CSS Committee has provided to the IAEA Director General its recommendations resulted from the meeting and has worked on preparation of the second progress report on the review of the IAEA Safety Standards in the Light of the Fukushima Daiichi Accident.

Mr. William Travers, Director General of the UAE's Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) (CSS member of the UAE) participated at the event along with the other 30 members and observers, which were appointed by the Agency's Director General for the period 2012-2015.

Draft list of actions resulting from the 32<sup>nd</sup> CSS meeting is available on the CSS website: <http://www-ns.iaea.org/committees/csscomments/default.asp?fd=1212>



The IAEA Safety Standards series cover nuclear safety, radiation safety, transport safety and waste safety issues under its main three categories publications: Safety Fundamental, Safety Requirement, and Safety Guides.

For more information on the IAEA's safety standards programme, see the link: <http://www-ns.iaea.org/standards/>

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### About the Permanent Mission

The UAE has been a member to 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 UAE Permanent Mission was established in 2008. Its objective 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 implementation of relevant international obligations.