Response and Assistance Network (RANET)

Pat Kenny
Incident and Emergency Centre
Department of Nuclear Safety and Security

IAEA
International Atomic Energy Agency
Assistance Convention

- Parties to Assistance Convention have undertaken to cooperate among them and with IAEA to facilitate prompt provision of assistance in case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency
- 108 Parties
  - Member States and International Organizations
Assistance Convention

• Places specific legal obligation on Parties
• Assistance Convention - Article 2, paragraph 4:

“States Parties shall, within the limits of their capabilities, identify and notify the Agency of experts, equipment and materials which could be made available for the provision of assistance to other States Parties in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency as well as the terms, especially financial, under which such assistance could be provided.”
Assistance Convention

• Defines legal responsibilities and functions of IAEA
• IAEA must respond, in accordance with its Statute and the Convention, to a request for emergency assistance by making available:
  • Appropriate resources, information and advice through different mechanisms
What is RANET

• Response and Assistance Network (RANET) was established in 2000
• Operational tool to support the practical implementation of the Assistance Convention

RANET is network of States:
• Capable and willing to provide specialized assistance
• Trained, equipped and qualified personnel with
• Ability to respond quickly and effectively to radiation emergencies
Aim of RANET

• To facilitate
  • Provision of requested international assistance (preferably on regional basis)
  • Enhancement and harmonization of response capabilities
  • Exchange of relevant information and feedback of experience
Scope of RANET

- Nuclear accidents or radiological emergencies in context of Emergency Conventions
- Nuclear or radiological incidents
- Radiological consequences that exceed State’s response capabilities
Responsibilities within RANET

• Requesting State
  • Overall direction, support and supervision of any assistance within its territory (Article 3 of Assistance Convention)

• Member States’ Resources
  • Identify capabilities, expertise and resources
    • National Assistance Capabilities (NAC)
    • that can be activated by CA to provide assistance
  • To designate NAC Coordinator
Responsibilities within RANET - IAEA

- Provides managerial, organizational, logistics and financial support
- Declares official termination of assistance
- Establishes follow-up mechanisms if deemed appropriate
- Serves as focal point for following RANET preparedness activities
  - Performs official registration of MS’s NAC
  - Maintains RANET Registry
  - Biennially requests MS’s CA certification of continued NAC resource availability
  - Periodically provides information on RANET’s status and activities
Form of Assistance

• **Assistance Mission**
  • Group of qualified experts providing assessment, advice, radiological monitoring, medical assessment and treatment, etc

• **Joint Assistance Team**
  • In more complex situations Joint Assistance Team is formed comprising of Field Assistance Teams

• **External Based Support**
  • Any support provided from assisting party offices or facilities
Functional Areas

- Source Search and Recovery (SSR)
- Radiation Survey (RS)
- Environmental Sampling and Analysis (ESA)
- Assessment and Advice (AA)
- Decontamination (DE)
- Medical Support (MS)
- Dose Assessment (DA)
## Recent Assistance Missions

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<th>Mission Date</th>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>Sources not recovered into medical device</td>
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Every Assistance Mission since 2010 has used RANET
Preparedness of RANET capabilities

• NAC members must be trained on and be aware of international guidelines

• Prepared to respond

• Conduct effective drills and exercises focusing

• When possible and appropriate participate in
  • international exercises such as ConvEx or
  • intercomparison exercises
Countries Registered in RANET

April 2012: 19 countries with registered capabilities
RANET Registration

• **Step 1:** Decide to register your assistance capabilities

• **Step 2:** Make a list of capabilities

• **Step 3:** Check consistency with RANET Technical Guidelines

• **Step 4:** Prepare registration form and send it to IEC
Conclusion

• Assistance Convention is the sole Legal Basis for provision of International Assistance
• RANET is the operational tool to implement the Assistance Convention
• RANET has been used effectively in every Assistance Mission since 2010
• The continued success depends on:
  • Capabilities registered in all FAs
    • On a regional basis
    • Both FAT and EBS
  • Regional distribution
  • Preparedness to respond promptly
  • Extension of capabilities, expertise and resources