Concept Note for the ANSN Activity

The ANSN serves as a sustainable regional cooperation platform aimed at achieving a high level of nuclear safety in the East and South Asian region. Since its inception in 2002, ANSN has provided more than 700 workshops/trainings. In 2024, the Network marked its 20-year achievement by recognizing expanded technical needs in the region, as well as the necessity to enhance the effectiveness of its support mechanism to the member states.

At its 34th Steering Committee meeting, it was finally decided to expand ANSN's activity to cover all subjects concerning nuclear safety and security and to pursue its activity in two different approaches to fulfill its objectives as follows:

- Serving as a platform to collaborate and develop regional strategies for addressing challenges in the region.
- Providing forums to share experiences and knowledge to identify best practices applicable to the region.
- Coordinating and implementing activities, including capacity building initiatives.
- Developing and pooling professionals in relevant areas within the region.

I. Approach 1: Capacity Building Support

(1) Objective

- Develop human resources to foster professionals and enhance their individual capability/competency in topical areas.

- Establish a readily available pool of experts.

- Strengthen and sustain regulatory infrastructure to ensure the safety and security of radiation utilization in accordance with the IAEA Safety Standards and the IAEA Nuclear Security Guidance

(2) Format

- Training Course: Enable participants to acquire knowledge on theoretical and practical issues, involving lectures and practice sessions. Technical Officers (TOs) will be assigned and lead the course.
- Regional/National* Workshop: To provide advanced knowledge and information

through group discussions and participant engagement. TOs will lead the workshops. (*Note: In principle, ANSN activities aim to respond to regional needs. National-based formats will be provided only according to urgency and resource availability.)

(3) Planning

- Identification of the topic candidates: Secretariat conducts regular surveys among member states and requests the Steering Committee (SC) members to seek proposals from member organizations in their respective countries.

- Coordination: ANSN Program Management Officer (PMO) consults with the potential TOs in the IAEA, TC Program Management Officers (PMOs) in charge of the areas to confirm the suitability and viability.

- Prioritization and Approval: Based on the consultation, the PMO proposes coming 3 years' activity plan to the SC meeting. The SC members will discuss the activity candidates in the plan thoroughly to prioritize and approve.

(4) Implementation

- Publication of the event: IAEA announces events through InTouch Plus system and the national authorities approve the nominations. Right after the official publication, PMO circulates event information to SC members to encourage participation of most capable professionals.

- Pre-event (Self-evaluation of capacity): Selected participants are encouraged to provide with status report on the subject matter to the PMO.

(5) Evaluation and Information Publication

- Program evaluation: Reports or surveys on evaluation and feedback by participants for each event.

- Website Publication: All event materials will be posted on the ANSN website hosted on the GNSSN IT platform.

II. Approach 2: Knowledge Network Project

(1) Objective

- Develop regional strategies or solutions on subjects of interest or concern to most ANSN members.

- Activate the flow of knowledge, information, resources among the members to individual capacity building

- Establish a readily available pool of experts.

(2) Format

- Each project has a limited duration (in principle 3 years) according to its specific objective, such as TEC-DOC or Guidance development, Regional/International Conference, etc.

- For each project, a respective Working Group (WG) will be established with nominated professionals from the member organizations, with an assigned IAEA TO for technical consultation.

- WGs develop their own operation rules and work plans, with consultation from the ANSN PMO and the approval from the ANSN SC.

(3) Planning

- Identification of the topic candidates: Project topics can be proposed and discussed annually during the SC meeting. SC members are required to prepare for this discussion. Secretariat can conduct a survey among member states upon the decision of SC.

- Coordination: ANSN Program Management Officer (PMO) consults with the potential TOs in the IAEA, TC Program Management Officers (PMOs) in charge of the areas to confirm the suitability and viability.

- Prioritization and Approval: Based on the consultation, the PMO proposes new project candidates to the SC meeting for approval and prioritization.

(4) Implementation

- The PMO will consult with the potential TOs in the IAEA, TC Program Management Officers (PMOs) in charge of the related projects to confirm the suitability and viability of the project according to the approved order.

- ANSN member states (currently, later members) will nominate the most suitable professionals for the project and formation of the WG.

- WG members will have a minimum one in-person meeting annually and will cooperate through the respective "collaboration space" in the ANSN website assigned for each WG.

(5) Project Topic for 2025-2027

* For the initial projects for 2025-27, the ANSN transformation TFT proposed several topics. Through discussion among SC members, the following topics are prioritized:

- Safety and Security of SMR, including Floating Nuclear Power Plant (FNPP)
- Environmental Monitoring (communication during emergencies among countries) + EPR (suggested) + resolution of duplication concerns
- Integrated Management System (IMS) (safety culture, human resource management) - an area for IAEA-Fukui annual event
- Safety of new technologies in radiation application
- Public awareness and communication, education (associated with ANENT, INSTA)
- Decommissioning – nuclear and radiation facilities
- Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM)