

**Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN)
Terms of Reference
for Topical Group on Radiation Protection and Transport Safety (RTTG)**

May 2018

Background

The Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN) was established by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 2002 to pool, analyse and share nuclear safety-related information, knowledge and experience among IAEA Member States participating in the Network. After an initial pilot stage, ANSN was fully implemented in 2004. The Network's activities are carried out within the framework of the IAEA's Extrabudgetary Programme on the Safety of Nuclear Installations in South East Asia, Pacific and Far East Countries. ANSN was first set up as a basic information sharing mechanism and then became a human and cyber network for facilitating sustainable regional cooperation to capture and disseminate basic and applied nuclear safety knowledge.

A few years after ANSN's establishment, with growing worldwide interest to consider launching nuclear power program as a viable energy source, interest in nuclear power gained momentum in several emerging countries. This led to proposals that the focus of the Network's activities should shift to nuclear safety capacity building, including the main elements of a nuclear power programme.

Accordingly, "Vision for ANSN by the Year 2020" (Vision 2020) was adopted at the second ANSN Nuclear Safety Strategy Dialogue meeting, which was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in April 2009, and since then it has served as a fundamental document guiding the Network's activities. Vision 2020 envisaged the establishment of a regional capacity building system consisting of: (a) education and training resources, using existing training centres in ANSN member countries and virtual training centres based on e-libraries, etc.; (b) technical support and advisory services, with the creation of 'virtual', web-based technical and scientific support organizations (TSOs); and (c) peer review and support arrangements. The Vision 2020 focused on the active use of state-of-the-art information technology (IT).

However, the environment in which ANSN was operating changed significantly after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident in March 2011. At the 55th regular session of the IAEA General Conference in September of that year, the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety was adopted and this called on Member States to undertake specific actions to further strengthen nuclear safety, emergency preparedness and radiation protection. As indicated in the Action Plan, Member States planning to embark on a nuclear power programme were requested to develop nuclear safety infrastructure and to strengthen and maintain capacity building, with the assistance from the IAEA Secretariat upon their request. This underlined the importance of taking the initiative in such efforts by the Member States themselves.

Under these circumstances, ANSN has adopted a new "ANSN Vision" which emphasizes the regional cooperation aspect of the Network's activities as well as the member countries' self-initiative to identify areas for improvement to achieve a high level of nuclear safety. ANSN member countries that are considering or preparing to embark on nuclear power programmes are encouraged to focus on capacity building, with those countries that already utilize nuclear power providing them with useful information, in-depth knowledge and practical experience related to nuclear safety and relevant services. ANSN aims to contribute to the activities by all member countries to enhance the safety of nuclear installations in the region, by providing continuous support for capacity building through the Network's activities

Introduction

At the 26th ANSN Steering Committee meeting in October 2017 in Vienna, it was approved that Radiation Protection and Transport Safety Topical Group (RTTG) should be established.

The scope of RTTG activities includes radiation protection and transport safety issues related to handling of radiation sources originating from nuclear installations. It has been noted that RTTG activities should be planned based on gaps identified through self-assessment by ANSN member countries.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of RTTG was approved at the 27th ANSN Steering Committee meeting in May 2018.

Objectives

- To promote cooperation and sharing of good practices and lessons learned among ANSN member countries in the area of radiation protection and transport safety;
- To enhance the capacity of radiation protection and transport safety in the region, consistent with the IAEA safety standards and associated technical documents;
- To serve as a forum for information exchange and to foster the sharing of knowledge and experience on radiation protection and transport safety;
- To promote a strong safety culture within regulatory bodies and operating organizations through RTTG activities; and
- To provide feedback on the experience in implementing RTTG activity plans and the needs of additional activity plans with strong justification to the ANSN Project Management Officer (PMO) and the Coordinator of Self-Assessment Coordination Group (SACG).

Structure

■ Coordinator

The Coordinator will:

- Be responsible for the chairmanship of RTTG;
- Lead RTTG meetings and discussion;
- Provide feedbacks about the experience in implementing RTTG activity plans and the needs of additional activity plans with strong justification to the PMO and the SACG Coordinator;
- Ensure that support activity plans of RTTG are implemented as scheduled;
- Participate in the meetings of SACG, as required, to develop and amend ANSN activity plan based on the results of self-assessments by ANSN member countries and feedbacks by RTTG members;
- Support the SACG Coordinator to evaluate the efficiency of the working methods and the effectiveness of results, including capacity building achievements in RTTG member countries, through implementation of RTTG activities;
- Facilitate communications with the IAEA Technical Officer; and
- Represent RTTG so that its activities can be coordinated, if necessary, with the activities of other topical groups, for capacity building in radiation protection and transport safety.

When there is more than one coordinator, a chief coordinator is to be selected from among them to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the coordinator described above.

■ National Representatives

The representatives at national level will:

- Have good knowledge of radiation and transport safety;
- Be able to provide broad views of their own organizational or national perspectives;
- Have a role and responsibility of radiation protection and transport safety in their organizations;
- Have a role in the promotion of safety culture in their organizations;
- Maintain continuous participation in RTTG activities to ensure consistent contribution to fulfilling RTTG objectives;
- Provide national information on radiation protection and transport safety issues and resulting-progress to RTTG activities; and
- Implement actions as agreed in RTTG biennial meetings.

■ IAEA Representatives

◆ Project Management Officer (PMO)

The IAEA PMO will:

- Develop and formulate draft activity plans of RTTG in cooperation with SACG and considering the feedbacks by the RTTG Coordinator and the IAEA Technical Officer; and
- Facilitate and monitor the preparation and implementation of RTTG activities and take the necessary actions, in cooperation with the IAEA Technical Officer and the Coordinator, as well as relevant ANSN members countries as appropriate, to ensure implementation of the planned activities in a timely manner.

◆ Technical Officer (TO)

The IAEA TO will:

- Provide the Coordinator with technical support to the formulation of feedbacks about the experience in implementing RTTG activity plans and the needs of additional activity plans with strong justification;
- Develop the technical documents for preparation of RTTG activities (i.e., prospectus, agenda, presentation materials);
- Select experts for the workshops, meetings and other relevant activities of RTTG in coordination with the Coordinator, RTTG members, and the PMO as necessary;
- Participate in RTTG activities (e.g., workshops, meetings and other relevant activities), and provide information on newly developed IAEA publications related to RTTG;
- Create an event record sheet in cooperation with participants of RTTG activity and submit it to the PMO and the RTTG Coordinator; and
- Participate in the meetings of SACG, as requested, to develop and amend draft ANSN activity plan based on the results of self-assessment by ANSN member countries and feedbacks by RTTG members.

Working Mechanism

■ Biennial meeting

A group meeting will take place once every two years. The meeting will be organized in conjunction with a RTTG activity (i.e., a regional workshop).

■ Meeting output

At each group biennial meeting, the following points will be discussed and formulated:

- A summary of the meeting for publication on the ANSN web site;

- An event record sheet, based on the prescribed form and the guidelines, on RTTG activities that will be submitted by RTTG Technical Officer to the PMO for compiling into an ANSN Progress Report;
- Actions (if any) and their deadlines; and
- Feedbacks about the experience in implementing RTTG activity plans and the needs (if any) of additional activity plans with strong justifications, which will be provided to the PMO and the SACG Coordinator.

If needed, a task force (TF) dealing with specific issues may be set up as a result of the group biennial meeting. The TF will have a leader who will report to the PMO and the Coordinator of RTTG on the progress of its activities. Between the meetings, there will be communication and follow-up by email and other applicable information technology tools.

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