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Enhancing Nuclear Safety-Security Culture in East Asia



Regional training courses on nuclear security are being offered by Japan to Asian countries and ASEAN Member-States.

Photo Credit: IAEA via flickr

Since 2013, the RSIS' Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies has been organising policy roundtables on post-Fukushima nuclear energy governance in East Asia, as part of the annual Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW). The previous RSIS SIEW roundtables have highlighted that the biggest risk associated with nuclear power comes not from the nuclear technology itself but the lack of a safety-security culture – the mindsets, attitudes, and behaviours of those involved in the operation and regulation of nuclear facilities and utilisation of radioactive materials. In this regard, the [RSIS' SIEW roundtable on October 27, 2017 focuses on developing nuclear safety-security culture in East Asia](#).

An important lesson from the Fukushima accident is the need to have broader perspectives on (and preparedness for) 'unthinkable' events and unforeseen circumstances – basically avoiding complacency. Human errors such as complacency and lack of critical thinking have been identified as key contributors to the Fukushima nuclear disaster. Yet, post-Fukushima resolutions in the nuclear industry have focused only on technological improvements, leaving out nuclear safety cul-

ture and security culture, which still need to be deepened in East Asia, including in ASEAN.

Human Errors Compromising Safety-Security Culture

In both China and Japan, a lack of a safety-security culture has served as an obstacle to strengthening safety and security in nuclear facilities.

In October 2016, China's National Nuclear Safety Administration made public 16 safety failures that occurred in China's nuclear plants during the year, all involving breaches of operational guidelines and mistakes made by power plant staff members.

Meanwhile, the crucial critical mindset of the regulatory staff was still found to be lacking in Japan's Nuclear Regulation Agency (NRA), according to the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 2016 Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) Report. The IAEA recommends that the training for inspectors should take a holistic approach and include the development of critical thinking.

Deepening Regional Cooperation on Safety-Security Culture

Notwithstanding these challenges, a few steps have already been taken by China and Japan to support ASEAN in building capabilities on nuclear energy and promoting their technology.

China has embarked on rapid nuclear power development with 37 nuclear power reactors in operation, with 20 under construction. With more about to start construction, China has also been promoting its nuclear technology overseas, including in Southeast Asia. For instance, China General Nuclear Power Corp (CGN) has already set up business offices in Southeast Asia. Since 2015, CGN has been co-organising, together with ASEAN Centre for Energy, the ASEAN-China Capacity-Building on Nuclear Energy Workshop.

Like China, Japan has also been promoting its nuclear reactor technology. Japan's centres of excellence such as Japan Atomic Energy Agency and Japan Atomic En-

ergy Commission have been providing technical training assistance to ASEAN Member-States in enhancing nuclear regulation, safety, security and emergency preparedness.

To make the ASEAN's capacity-building cooperation with China and Japan more comprehensive, it is important to complement technical training on nuclear energy with human resource development, especially in developing a nuclear safety-security culture. While there are no nuclear power plants yet in Southeast Asia, radioactive materials are already being widely used in industrial factories, research reactors, universities and hospitals in the region.

It is therefore crucial to develop a safety-security culture in the joint activities, technical workshops, and meetings of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) and the ASEAN Nuclear Energy Cooperation-Subsector Network (NECSSN). With the transboundary risks of nuclear accidents or the possibility of hijacking radioactive materials ever present, it is glaringly urgent that ASEAN Member-

States apply the lessons from Northeast Asia by collectively building the necessary skills and mindsets that will discourage complacency and promote critical thinking in using nuclear energy.



IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano visited the Livestocks Breeding and Veterinary Department in Yangon, Myanmar in June 2017. Radioactive materials and radiation apparatus are used in livestock breeding.

Photo Credit: Shiota Kamishima / IAEA via flickr

Suggested Readings:

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- Zhang, Hui, 2016, "China's nuclear security: Progress, challenges, and next steps", Project on Managing the Atom, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School.
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CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY AND NATURAL DISASTERS

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Pope, Orthodox leader make climate change appeal to 'heal wounded creation'

Isla Binnie, Hugh Lawson,
Reuters

1 September 2017

Climate change to cause humid heatwaves that will kill even healthy people

World Health Organization

15 September 2017

Islamic State and climate change seen as world's greatest threats, poll says

Joanna Walters,
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17 September 2017

U.S. governors at U.N. Assembly: 'You have allies' on climate change

Lisa Friedman and Brad Plumer,

The New York Times

18 September 2017

Article on climate change 'inaccurate'

Henry Fountain,
The Straits Times, The New York Times

18 September 2017

US to join climate talks despite planned withdrawal from Paris accord

BBC News,

19 September 2017

Official: Dam, other designs must consider climate change

David Warren,
Associated Press

22 September 2017



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Climate science special report: A sustained assessment activity of the U.S. global change research program

D.J. Wuebbles, et al. (eds),
U.S. Global Change Research Program

2017

Who drives climate-relevant policies in the rising powers?

Hubert Schmitz,
New Political Economy, Vol. 22, No. 5, pp. 521–540
2017

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Global Workshop on Climate Change Adaptation

11–12 December 2017
Geneva, Switzerland

World Symposium on Climate Change and Biodiversity

3–5 April 2018
Manchester, the UK

ENERGY SECURITY

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Malaysia inks cross-border power deal with Thailand and Laos

The Malaysian Insight

27 September 2017

Siting solar energy farms at reservoirs

Fabian Koh,
The Straits Times

30 September 2017

ASEAN charts new goals for region's energy collaboration

Myrna Velasco,
Manila Bulletin

2 October 2017

PH advancing planned LNG investments

Myrna Velasco,

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Fukushima operator gets first safety approval since 2011 tsunami disaster

AFP,
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IAEA releases projections on global nuclear power capacity through 2050

Shant Krikorian and Ayhan Evrensel,
International Atomic Energy Agency

4 October 2017



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EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Asia Clean Energy Summit

24-26 October 2017
Singapore

Nuclear Safety and Security Culture: Powering Nuclear Governance in East Asia– RSIS**Roundtable at Singapore International Energy Week 2017**

27 October 2017
Singapore

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Learning from Fukushima: Nuclear power in East Asia

Peter Van Ness and Mel Gurtov
Australian National University Press
2017

The 5th ASEAN energy outlook: 2015-2040

ASEAN Centre for Energy
2017

FOOD SECURITY



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The state of food security and nutrition in the world

FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO
2017

Synopsis: Global food policy report 2017

International Food Policy Research IFPRI (IFPRI)
2017

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Mexico mulls pork as response to U.S. NAFTA produce proposal: sources

David A. Garcia,
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Turkey forces hunger-strike academic into intensive care, says family

AFP,
Middle East Eye
26 September 2017

Africa second in UN world hunger ranking

Nyaboga Kiage and Aggrey Omboki,
Daily Nation
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Rice and the private sector: Asia's food-energy-water nexus

Stella Liu,
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27 September 2017

Iraqi Kurds must give up on independence or go hungry - Erdogan

BBC News
26 September 2017

Draft UN report calls out Saudi Arabia for Yemeni children deaths

Rhys Dubin,
Foreign Policy
4 October 2017

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2017 International Conference on Agricultural and Food Science

25-27 October 2017
Lahore, Pakistan

Seventh International Conference on Food Studies

26-27 October 2017
Rome, Italy

3rd International Conference on Global Food Security

3-6 December 2017
Cape Town, South Africa

HEALTH SECURITY



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Why global health is center stage at the United Nations General Assembly

Alexandra Sifferlin,
Time
18 September 2017

Too few antibiotics in pipeline to tackle global drug-resistance crisis, WHO warns

Sarah Boseley,
The Guardian
19 September 2017

When will the economy start caring about home-care work?

Annie Lowrey
The Atlantic
22 September 2017

WHO warns of cholera threat in Bangladesh Rohingya camps

AFP,
The Straits Times
25 September 2017

Hospitals in crisis in Uganda as Middle Eastern countries poach medical staff

Samuel Okiror,
The Guardian
25 September 2017

Report finds nearly half of all abortions worldwide are unsafe

Ashley Welch,
CBS News
27 September 2017

Is health care a right?

Atul Gawande,
The New Yorker
2 October 2017

Why gun violence is a public health crisis

Leon Kan,
MIMS Today
9 October 2017

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Antibacterial agents in clinical development: An analysis of the antibacterial clinical development pipeline, including tuberculosis

World Health Organisation
2017

Water, sanitation and hygiene: the unfinished agenda in the World Health Organisation South-East Asia Region

Indira Chakravarty et al.,
WHO South-East Asia Journal of Public Health,
Vol 6, No. 2:22-26
2017

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26th International Conference on Healthcare & Life-Science Research

23-24 December 2017
Dubai, UAE

The International Conference of Public Health and Preventative Medicine 2018

5-7 January 2018
Bangkok, Thailand



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PEACE, HUMAN SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

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Cambodia's crumbling democracy

George Wright,
The Diplomat
16 September 2017

Is the Philippines violent drug war spreading to Indonesia

Nithin Coca,
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6 October 2017

How the Rohingya crisis is changing Bangladesh

Tom Felix Joehnk,
The New York Times
6 October 2017

Spain and Catalonia are heading towards an uncertain and dangerous future

Emilio Ferrer,
Sydney Morning Herald
8 October 2017



Courtesy of Flickr account of US Army Africa and used under a creative commons license.

The story not being talked about in Myanmar

Anbarasan Ethirajan,
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Rohingya Crisis: Breaking the unending cycle of exodus

Janet Lim,
RSIS Commentaries
9 October 2017

Ethiopia's ethnic federalism is being tested

The Economist,
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9 October 2017

A split within a split: the Catalan valley sticking with Spain

Angus Berwick,
Reuters
9 October 2017

Will our Nobel peace prize winner convince Australia to give up nuclear weapons?

Tim Wright,
The Guardian
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Smart peacekeeping: Toward tech-enabled UN operations

A. Walter Dorn,
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Humanitarianism in the Age of Cyber-warfare

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2017

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

International Conference on Human Rights and Human Security 2018

25-26 June 2018
Paris, France

10th IEEE International Conference on Cyber Conflict

29 May - 1 June 2018
Tallinn, Estonia

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME



Courtesy of Flickr account of The Daily Star News and used under a creative commons license.

The UN wants Facebook to fix its human trafficking problem

Zoe Schallinger,
Quartz
28 September 2017

Bangladesh destroys boats ferrying Rohingya from Myanmar

Tom Allard and Damir Sagolj,
Reuters
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Myanmar soldiers nabbed with 2 million pills in Rakhine, as drug trade defies crisis

AFP,
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ASEAN ministers discuss measures to address transnational crimes

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China: Beijing decides how to regulate its Anti-Corruption Body

Stratfor
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Fear of Rohingya's ending-up as human trafficking victims

B. Suresh Ram,
The New Straits Times
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Barristers object to nomination of controversial Brazil anti-corruption squad for UBC prize

Carlito Pablo,
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Corruption risks: Mining approvals in Australia

Transparency International Australia
October 2017

Case Digest - Evidential issues in trafficking in persons cases

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
October 2017

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Latin American Anti-Corruption Enforcement and Compliance

6–7 November 2017
Hilton São Paulo Morumbi,
São Paulo, Brazil

8th Biennial Global Immigration Conference

15–17 November 2017
The Grange St Pauls,
London, England

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF



Courtesy of Flickr account The U.S. Army and used under a creative commons license.

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Disaster response regional architectures: Assessing future possibilities

Alistair Cook, Jessica Ear,
and Deon Canyon,
RSIS Policy Brief
2017

Asia-Pacific disaster report 2017
UNESCAP
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Martial law and trust: Humanitarian challenges in Marawi

Martin Searle,
RSIS Commentary
21 September 2017

Dubai hopes to harness tech advances to help children access education

Caline Malek,
The National
24 September 2017

A Mapathon to pinpoint areas hardest hit in Puerto Rico

Alice Yin,
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Trapped Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar get first substantial food aid in months

Wa Lone,
Reuters,
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There's a massive humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh's Rohingya refugee camps

Nayma Qayum,
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Improving disaster response: Role of knowledge sharing

Christopher Chen,
RSIS Commentary
13 October 2017

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The Eighth Annual National Roundtable on Disaster Risk Reduction - "Building Back Better"

23-24 October 2017
Halifax, Canada

Disaster Risk Reduction, Response and Sustainable Reconstruction: Capacity Building for Equitable Planning and Development

8 November 2017
Boston, USA

WATER SECURITY

NEWS AND COMMENTARIES

Adaptation efforts in Asia shine spotlight on water resources, agriculture

Elena Kosolapova, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

21 September 2017

What innovation looks like when water is a strategic resource

Will Sarni, GreenBiz

27 September 2017

Only one of four river basins in India can support vegetation during a drought year: Study

Snehal Fernandes, Hindustan Times

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OECD publication explores impacts and trade-offs from land-energy-water nexus

Wangu Mwangi, IISD

3 October 2017

Floods bring alluvium to fields in Mekong Delta

Mai Chi, Vietnam.net Bridge

5 October 2017

China's fight against deserts could hurt its water security

Kai Schwarzel and The Conversation, Asia Times

16 October 2017



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Addressing water security in the People's Republic of China: The 13th five-year plan (2016-2020) and beyond

ADB
2016

The land-water-energy nexus: Biophysical and economic consequences

OECD
2017



Courtesy of Flickr account of Philippe Floch and used under a creative commons license

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

World Toilet Summit 2017

20-21 November 2017
Melbourne, Australia

Call for Papers: 1st International Conference on Water Security

15 December 2017
Toronto, Canada