

CLIMATE SECURITY
page 3

ENERGY SECURITY
page 3

FOOD SECURITY
page 4

HEALTH SECURITY
page 5

**HUMANITARIAN ASSIS-
TANCE AND DISASTER
RELIEF**
page 5

MIGRATION
page 6

Sustaining Nuclear Security Capacity Building: Role of Knowledge Centres and Universities



One of the working groups of the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN)

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In this year's ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, the robust impact of the peaceful applications of nuclear technology, including the use of radioactive materials, on socioeconomic development of many countries in the Asia-Pacific was duly recognised. The 2018 East Asia Summit Leaders' statement on nuclear safety and security also acknowledged the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology in the region and their importance in medicine and healthcare, climate change mitigation, agriculture, scientific research, clean energy, environment and industry. Such regional recognitions accentuate the contributions of safe and secure deployment of nuclear technology to achieving at least nine of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific region also recognises the need to enhance nuclear security capacity building efforts, including training and education, both at national and regional levels. Without stringent regulatory oversight on the use and

handling of nuclear and radioactive materials, there are potential risks of these being accidentally leaked, stolen and used for malicious purposes, or released indiscriminately by non-state actors. While nuclear security is often understood to be about securing nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons, it is also very much about the security of radioactive materials. As defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), nuclear security is "the prevention and detection of, and response to, theft, sabotage, unauthorized access, illegal transfer or other malicious acts involving nuclear material, other radioactive substances or their associated facilities".

Sustainable nuclear security education ensures the availability of experts who can provide the necessary competencies for effective national nuclear security oversight of nuclear and radioactive materials as well as establish and maintain an appropriate nuclear security regime in a State. The primary role of knowledge centres and nuclear security centres of excellence (COE) is to facilitate the de-

velopment of human resources and the provision of technical and scientific support on several levels to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of nuclear security in a State.

A few ASEAN Member States such as Malaysia and Indonesia have established their COEs, while the Philippines, Vietnam and Thailand are still considering or planning to establish their respective COEs. Meanwhile, beyond their national responsibilities, Northeast Asian COEs help develop the human resources and technical support services needed for a sustainable nuclear security regime in East Asia. For instance, Japanese, Chinese and South Korean COEs offer nuclear security capacity building assistance to nuclear-related agencies and COEs in Asian countries, including several ASEAN Member States.

Apart from COEs, knowledge centres such as universities and research institutions can also fill in the gaps in countries where there are no established COEs. For instance, RSIS has been collaborating with fellow members of the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN) through its roundtables, workshops and information-sharing. In October 2019, RSIS will host an IAEA regional faculty development course on nuclear security, involving INSEN members.

Meanwhile, the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Chulalongkorn University, and Universitas Gadjah Mada have jointly set up this year a regional master's degree course on nuclear safety and security, which can further deepen nuclear security education in ASEAN.

There should be greater synergy and collaboration among COEs and other knowledge centres in deepening security culture of excellence in the Asia-Pacific. Education is a powerful tool to raise awareness to educate students on nuclear security and train professionals, thereby strengthening nuclear security culture and practices at the national level. As a first step, an institutionalised collaboration between the COEs of Northeast Asia and ASEAN COEs can be established given that East Asia is a region that will definitely need significant capacity building cooperation in the coming years.

Suggested Readings

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- Matthew Bunn, Nickolas Roth, and William H. Tobey. 2019. *Revitalizing Nuclear Security in an Era of Uncertainty*. Cambridge, MA: Project on Managing the Atom, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School.
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CLIMATE SECURITY

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16 September 2019

Marine heatwaves kill corals quicker than previously thought

UN Environment
23 September 2019

India's precarious water security takes toll on farmers

Fred Pearce,
Financial Times
25 September 2019

The world's oceans are in trouble. And so are humans, warns U.N. Report

Justin Worland,
TIME
25 September 2019

Climate change: Highlights of the IPCC oceans report (and what can be done)

Agence Française de Développement,
27 September 2019

The climate crisis is global, but these 6 places face the most severe consequences

Tara Law,
TIME
30 September 2019

Greta Thunberg speech in full: Read the climate activist's damning message to the UN

Sebastian Kettley,
Express
30 September 2019

Yet another haze crisis: How now?

Khor Yu Leng and Johan Saravanamuttu,
RSIS Commentary
3 October 2019

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Advancing United Nations responses to climate-related security Risks

Camilla Born et. al,
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Policy Brief
2019

Action plan on climate change adaptation and resilience

World Bank,
Washington DC: World Bank
2019

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2020 Ocean Pathways Meeting: Charting the Course for a Sustainable Future for the Ocean

11–15 November 2019
Montreal, Canada

2nd International River Summit

28–30 November 2019
Prayagraj, India



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ENERGY SECURITY

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The IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security 2020: A pre-view

Inna Pletukhina,
IAEA
2 October 2019

Russia's floating nuclear power plants eyed for island provinces in Philippines

Melissa Luz Lopez,
CNN Philippines
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Courting Russia with South China Sea oil is a 'dangerous gamble' for Duterte

Raissa Robles,
South China Morning Post
8 October 2019

Duterte wants to first study PH-Russia nuke energy deal

Consuelo Marquez,
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Oil and gas supply tussle clouds Southeast Asia's economic outlook

Toru Takahashi,
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DBS urged not to fund Vietnam coal plant

Tan Hui Yee,
The Straits Times
15 October 2019



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Preventive measures for nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control

International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna: IAEA 2019

Renewables 2019 global status report

REN21, Paris: REN21 Secretariat 2019

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Gas Asia Summit 2019

30-31 October 2019
Singapore

International Conference on Nuclear Security: Sustaining and Strengthening Efforts

10-14 February 2020
Vienna, Austria

FOOD SECURITY



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Rural livelihoods, food security and rural transformation under climate change

PK Thornton et al., Rotterdam and Washington, DC.: Global Centre for Adaptation 2019

Global adaptation governance: An emerging but contested domain

Åsa Persson, Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change 10. p.e618 2019

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Fostering rural transformation under climate change: Suggestions for the Global Commission on Adaptation

CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture And Food Security (CCAFS), Preventionweb.Net 19 September 2019

Armyworms attack corn farms in Negros, Cagayan Valley

Carla P. Gomez and Vil-lamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer.net 9 October 2019

Russia wants to tap UAE's food demand

Emirates News Agency (WAM), Russian Business Today 10 October 2019

Swine flu case: State 'has sympathy... but is not liable'

Ann O'Loughlin, Irish Examiner 11 October 2019

Ukrainian eggs now sold in Singapore as Republic moves to enhance food security

Timothy Goh, The Straits Times 12 October 2019

Duterte approves expanded anti-hunger program

Ruth Abbey Gita, Sun Star Manila 14 October 2019

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Using Satellite Imagery for Early Warning of Productivity Constraints

31 October 2019
Webinar (Food Security Portal)

The Global Forum on Innovations for Marginal Environments

20-21 November 2019
Dubai, United Arab Emirates



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HEALTH SECURITY



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World Report on Vision
World Health Organisation, Geneva: WHO
2019

Determinants of inequalities in life expectancy: An international comparative study of eight risk factors
Johan P Mackenbach et al., The Lancet, Vol. 4, No. 10: 529-537
2019

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Amazon is now offering virtual health care to its employees
Mary Beth Griggs, The Verge
24 September 2019

These STDs are the most common infectious diseases reported to the CDC
Jamie Ducharme, Time
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Research: People want their employers to talk about mental health
Kelly Greenwood, Vivek Bapat and Mike Maughan, Harvard Business Review
7 October 2019

The 2019 Nobel Prize in medicine: here is what won the award
Bruce Y Lee, Forbes
8 October 2019

Digital medicine movement is growing up and that's a good thing
Greg Licholai, Forbes
7 October 2019

One quarter of every US healthcare dollar wasted
Reuters Health, CNA
9 October 2019

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International Conference on Medical & Health Science (ICMHS 2019)
29–30 November 2019
Lisbon, Portugal

The IRES International Conferences on Medical and Health Science (ICMHS)
29–30 November 2019
Ottawa, Canada



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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND DISASTER RELIEF

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Report warns of the humanitarian cost of climate change
Rebecca Root, DevEx
23 September 2019

Internally displaced, intentionally disregarded
Alexandra Bilak, IDMC
30 September 2019

Searching for the nexus: The view from the ground
Louise Redvers, The New Humanitarian
24 September 2019

We witness unacceptable levels of civilian harm in urban conflicts
Gilles Carbonnier, ICRC
01 October 2019



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

Ten reports from UN General Assembly week worth noting

Ben Parker, The New Humanitarian
01 October 2019

Urban areas in Mekong Delta face serious flooding

Viet Nam News
04 October 2019



Courtesy of Flickr account of Jeffrey Pioquinto, SJ and used under a creative commons license.

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Applying subseasonal-to-seasonal predictions to improve disaster risk reduction in South-East Asia

UN ESCAP, ASMC and RIMES
2019

Disaster risk reduction in conflict contexts: An agenda for action

Katie Peters, London: ODI
2019

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

4th International Research Colloquium towards Disaster Risk Transfer (4IRC-DRT)

09 – 10 November 2019
Quezon City, Philippines

World Bosai Forum 2019

09 – 12 November 2019
Tohoku, Japan

MIGRATION



Courtesy of Flickr account of ILO Asia Pacific and used under a creative commons license.

Australia legal loophole robs migrants of thousands of dollars in unpaid wages,
The Guardian, South China Morning Post
30 September 2019

South Asian herders fight for right to roam as pressure to settle grows,
Rina Chandran, Reuters,
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World's migrant population now at 272 million, UN report finds
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18 September 2019

As China forges ecological future, Tibetans relinquish nomadic past
Reuters, Channel News Asia,
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Cambodia to curb recruitment fees in bid to protect migrants from slavery abroad
The Straits Times
19 September 2019

Patriotism vs pay packet: Japan-South Korea tensions test migrant workers
David Lee, South China Morning Post,
27 September 2019

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Changing attitudes and behaviour towards women migrant workers in ASEAN: Technical regional meeting
International Labor Organization
2019

International migration outlook 2019
OECD
2019

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9th Annual Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries
12-13 December 2019
Paris, France

Twentieth International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities & Nations,
10-12 June 2020
Milan, Italy