



Report on Roundtable Discussion

on

Nuclear Security Summit 2014

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

at

Conference Room, CAPS, Subroto Park, New Delhi





REPORT ON ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON NUCLEAR SECURITY

SUMMIT 2014

Chaired by **Air Marshal Vinod Patney SYSM PVSM AVSM VrC (Retd) Director General, CAPS**



The Nuclear Security Regime: An Overview – Dr. Manpreet Sethi, Senior Fellow, CAPS

The speaker provided an overview of the nuclear security framework. She pointed out how the need for nuclear security came into international focus after 9/11 and the A.Q Khan revelations. The term Nuclear Security was defined as the detection, prevention and response to malicious act involving nuclear material and radioactive material. President Obama called upon all states to secure nuclear materials on their territory at the first nuclear security summit he organised in Washington in 2010. But the nuclear security framework is more than just the summit. The role of three components; CPPNM 1987 & Amendment 2005, ICSANT 2007 & its Current Status, Role of IAEA were elaborated. The speaker identified lack of uniformity in rigor and of implementation, and non-existence of punitive action for non-compliance as some of the key challenges for nuclear security. The





speaker made some suggestions for improvement in nuclear security through sharing of technology in detection equipment, forensics and sharing of best practices and experiences in enforcement and managing spent fuel.

Nuclear Security Summits: The Journey & Achievements – Ms Hina Pandey, Research Associate, CAPS

The speaker focused on the Nuclear Security Summits held in 2010 and 2012 and also did a comparative analysis of the same. She highlighted the primary purpose of those summits as securing and preventing nuclear materials and radiological materials from reaching the hands of terrorists. The important themes, additions and changes to the 2012 NSS compared to the previous were tracked and highlighted. She pointed out that the next summit will chart out the achievements made in the past four years and list out the objectives that were met and not met and propose ways to achieve them. The concept of gift basket by some participating countries was highlighted, and mention was made on the Nuclear Industry



Summit and the Knowledge Summit that will also be taking place on the sidelines of the 2014 NSS. The countries that are in the process of updating or revising domestic regulations to secure nuclear and radiological material were listed. The speaker made few observations on the past nuclear security summits and hoped that a it will bring up a transnational network of nuclear intellectuals into the process.



India and Nuclear Security: Summits and Beyond – Dr. Sitakanta Mishra, Research Fellow, CAPS

The speaker focused on India's participation in the nuclear security summits held so far and threw light on India's rationale for its active participation in the Summit. He focused on the four themes and action areas of the summit; Material Security, Governance, Prevention of Smuggling and



Nuclear Security Culture. He threw light on some of India's unique methods by which it ensures safety and security of its nuclear materials and thus reduces the risks of proliferation. On the governance issue, the speaker elaborated the various national Acts, rules and guidelines which set a strong national framework to deal with the issue. India's international legal commitments through multilateral and bilateral arrangements in this regard were also elaborated. On the security against smuggling of nuclear materials, he described the security layers around India's nuclear installations and other physical security measures. Regarding the security culture aspect, mention was made of the internal security practices of the country and the GCNEP. The speaker also looked at some other measures India could take in future towards further strengthening the security of nuclear and radiological materials.

Some key points that emerged during the Q&A Session,

1. The budget of the IAEA for handling nuclear security challenges needs to increase.
2. It was pointed out that the politics around nuclear security should be kept away from genuine measures.
3. The need for global awareness on nuclear security and implementation of national measures according to the international benchmarks was emphasized.



4. India's participation in the NSS and its actions are driven by its own interest as India is a major victim of terrorism.
5. Mention was made that there is fair level of summit fatigue that is setting in which will influence the future of the summit process after 2016.
6. Despite a perception created by a ranking system of nations on nuclear security, India has a well established system for material accounting and physical security of nuclear facilities. Its efficacy is proven by the fact that no major incident of any concern from the nuclear security point of view has been reported in over half a century of nuclear operations.
7. The Asia-Pacific Leadership Network, an independent non-governmental group, has plans to propose an Asian Nuclear Security Summit.
8. A mention was made that India could offer to host the 2018 Nuclear Security Summit. This would give it an opportunity to showcase its confidence and keenness on the subject which is one of genuine concern for national security.

[PLEASE CLICK TO SEE THE PHOTO ALBUM OF THE EVENT](#)

***(The report was prepared by Arjun Subramanian P, Associate Fellow, CAPS and
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