

Australia's implementation of UNGA Resolution 64/38: Measures to Prevent Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction

Australia is a party in good standing to the **Chemical Weapons Convention** and the **Biological Weapons Convention**. Australia works with other states party to further the objectives of those conventions.

Australia permanently chairs the **Australia Group**, an informal forum of countries which aims to prevent would-be proliferators – including non-state actors – from exploiting differences or ambiguities in national export control regimes to obtain materials and technologies which could be used for the production of chemical and biological weapons. Australia Group members are committed to expanding trade in chemical and biological goods for peaceful purposes and maintaining active chemical and biotechnological industries within a secure regulatory framework. Australia encourages UN member states to implement CBRN export controls drawing on Australia Group and Nuclear Suppliers Group guidelines. Australian Government agencies conduct regular national outreach to Australian industry and, as opportunities arise, industry representatives and officials from the Asia-Pacific region. In 2009-2010, this has included national seminars and training on industry obligations under Australian export control legislation (including regulations relating to the Australia Group). The Australian Government also maintains an industry-focused public education campaign on export controls and dual-use goods, including disseminating information via a dedicated website, distributing publications and flyers, and advertising in trade magazines.

In September 2010, Australia, together with the United States and the Philippines, will host a **Bio-Risk Workshop** to highlight the importance of effective security measures for biological agents. The workshop will aim to attract participation by ASEAN Regional Forum member states.

In June 2009, Australia hosted the “*Asia-Pacific Seminar on Chemical Safety and Security to Counter Terrorism*”. The seminar underlined the importance of effective safety and security arrangements for the regulatory control of security-sensitive chemicals and highlighted the bilateral and international assistance available to countries in the event of a chemical incident. The activity attracted over 100 participants from 10 regional countries and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

In 2009, Australia assumed chairmanship of the OPCW Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, which has been tasked by the 60th Session of the Executive Council to examine further the OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts, with a view to recommending additional measures.

The Australian Attorney-General's Department has recently established a **chemical security coordination unit**. The Unit is developing a risk management framework for examining vulnerabilities in the supply chain of a number of identified high-risk chemicals, including explosives and their precursors, and for raising public awareness about the potential misuse of these dual-use chemicals.

In 2009, the Australian Safeguards and Non-proliferation Office (ASNO) conducted an extensive outreach programme to the chemical industry and traders affected by the CWC and also raised awareness about export controls on chemicals and the importance of chemical security in preventing terrorism access.

In May 2009, Australia hosted a **seminar and discussion exercise** (“*Radiation Incidents: Avoidance, Surveillance and Response*” and *DISCEX ‘Blue Glow’*), under the framework of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT). Presentations underlined the importance of effective safety and security arrangements for the control of radioactive materials and the international assistance networks available to countries in the event of a radiation incident. The event was attended by some 90 participants from international organisations, GICNT and ASEAN member States.

ASNO works closely with regional counterparts and international partners to ensure that states in the region have access to the information and training that they need to fulfil their nuclear safeguards obligations and develop best practices in relation to nuclear security. ASNO works closely with regional counterparts as well as the IAEA, the US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Japan’s Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI) and the Korea Institute of Nuclear Non-proliferation and Control (KINAC) to deliver training and support across the Asia-Pacific region.

ASNO has an active **regional outreach** program focused on providing practical assistance to countries in our region in the areas of nuclear safeguards and security. Recent and upcoming events include: a two-week training course conducted with the IAEA in June 2009 in Sydney on the security of nuclear research reactors, which was attended by 24 participants from the region; an August 2009 training course conducted with the IAEA and the US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) in Sydney for Thai and Vietnamese participants on domestic safeguards inspector training; lecturing at regional safeguards courses, including a November 2009 course held in Japan; safeguards training and outreach to Vietnam in April 2010; a regional safeguards course to be held in Sydney in the first half of 2011.

In 2009, ASNO signed Memoranda of Understanding with Vietnam, Indonesia and the Republic of Korea covering cooperation on nuclear safeguards and security, and is working to develop specific outreach activities with these countries.

The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) plays a key regional role in training South-East Asian and Pacific island countries to safely and securely manage high activity radioactive sources. ANSTO’s **Regional Security of Radioactive Sources (RSRS) Project** has improved the management of security risks associated with such radioactive sources by working with regional countries, the US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the IAEA to improve national infrastructures (both physical and legislative), apply standards and requirements for the physical protection and security management of such radioactive sources and undertake related professional development to sustainably implement these requirements. The project involves a program of activities in regional countries and at ANSTO.

Australia has contributed to the IAEA's **Nuclear Security Fund** (NSF) since its establishment in 2002, when the IAEA Board of Governors approved a Plan of Activities to Protect Against Nuclear Terrorism, which enhanced and integrated the Agency's existing nuclear security-related activities. In 2009, Australia contributed AUD 450,000 to the NSF, earmarked for the acquisition of monitoring and radiation detection equipment in Indonesia, to support the participation of South-East Asian member States at the Regional Radiological Security Partnership's Review Meeting on Radioactive Source Security (in Vietnam, March 2010) and training courses on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials hosted by China in 2010.