

NEWSLETTER

RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Radioactive Waste Management --- toward establishment of nuclear safety culture



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Radioactive waste is inevitably produced wherever nuclear materials or reactors are used. Therefore, it is essential to take “radioactive waste management” (RWM) into consideration at the planning phase of the use of nuclear materials or reactors. Surprisingly, it is not widely known that radioactive waste is produced in various ways; not only from radioactive materials for medical use, research use, and industrial use as well as from research reactors and industrial reactors but also from dismantling of nuclear power facilities and radioisotopes/radiation facilities, from radiation/reactor accidents, use of “Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (TENORM)”, and from natural radioactivity in surplus soil of mining. In this context, the subject is a matter of concern for Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) member countries.

This RWM group is examining subjects related to radioactive waste management such as technical problems, safety control, safety appraisal, and matters related to laws and regulations. These studies are related to international commitments and waste-related treaties, and are targeted at establishing nuclear safety culture on radioactive waste in FNCA member countries by complying with the basic rules of radioactive waste management: (1) protection of human health, (2) environmental protection, (3) regional protection beyond international borders, (4) protection for future generations, (5) reduction of burdens on future generations, (6) legal framework, (7) limitation on radioactive waste production, (8) consideration of interdependence between production and management of radioactive waste, and (9) securing the safety of facilities.

History of Seminars/Workshops

At the 5th International Conference for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (ICNCA) held in Tokyo in March 1994, Indonesia proposed taking up a new theme, that of nuclear safety and radioactive waste management. At the 6th ICNCA, it was agreed that the radioactive waste management project would be implemented to promote the safe utilization of nuclear energy in Asia, and to develop a common understanding of radio-active waste management issues and concerns. In order to have an in-depth discussion of priority issues specific to the host country of the particular Workshop, Sub-Meetings were held with the participation of specialists from a broad range of related fields. And a detailed reporting of RWM Status in the FNCA Countries was carried out by the use of a questionnaire type of survey.



Record of RWM Workshops

1) 1995 RWM Seminar	Japan (Tokyo)	8) 2002 RWM Workshop	Korea (Daejeon)
2) 1996 RWM Seminar	Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)	9) 2003 RWM Workshop	Indonesia (Jakarta)
3) 1997 RWM Seminar	China (Beijing)	10) 2004 RWM Workshop	Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur)
4) 1998 RWM Workshop	Thailand (Bangkok)	11) 2005 RWM Workshop	Japan (Okayama Pref.)
5) 1999 RWM Workshop	The Philippines (Manila)	12) 2006 RWM Workshop	China (Beijing)
6) 2000 RWM Workshop	Australia (Sydney)		
7) 2001 RWM Workshop	Viet Nam (Da Lat)	13) 2007 RWM Workshop	Thailand (Bangkok)

Participants: 370 Persons (cumulative up to 2006)

Activities and Achievements

The following Activities are undertaken in the FNCA RWM Project

a. RWM Workshop

RWM workshop is held once a year. And each FNCA country contributes as a local host.

Each country reports RWM related-issues as their country report. Each country's RWM situation. Round-table discussions are held for topical issues, and topics for the next workshop are also discussed.

b. Sub-Meeting

Simultaneously set up with workshop, open to a wider audience concerned with RWM topical issues. Themes of Sub-meeting are also discussed and agreed on during the RWM Workshop.

c. Posters / Mini-Exhibition

Poster Session/Mini-Exhibition are also simultaneously set up with the workshop. This poster session is intended for a wider audience.

d. Task Group Activity

According to the agreement among workshop participants and concurrence by the FNCA Coordinators Meeting, Task Group Activities are undertaken for certain important matters. Results of these activities are reported and discussed during the RWM Workshop. Discussion includes how to publish the result.

- SRSM Task (2001, 2002) : Two-years activity highlighted on the Spent Radiation Sources Management
- TENORM Task (2003, 2004) : Two-years activity highlighted on the Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials
- Decommissioning & Clearance Task (2005-2007) : Three years activity highlighted on the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and clearance level.

e. RWM Newsletter

Topics and news in RWM fields in each FNCA country are published twice a year. Articles are gathered through voluntary activities by each RWM member.

Japan issues odd-number editions, and even-number editions are issued by a local host country of WS. Seventeen Newsletters have been issued up to February 2007. Back numbers are available at the FNCA web-site.

f. Database

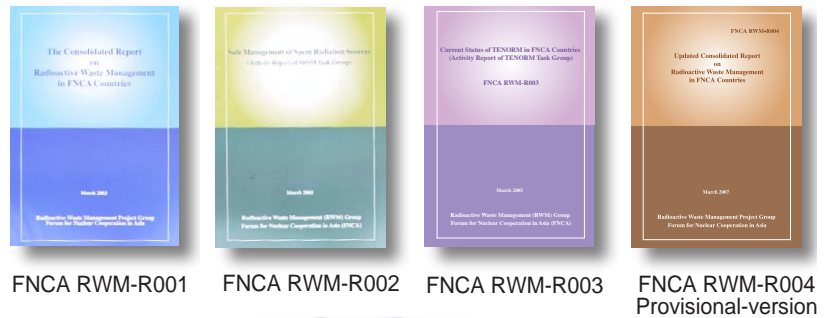
Recent information regarding RWM activities is available at the web-site of FNCA.

Achievements

The following highlights the latest technical outcomes from the FNCA RWM Activities.

a. Report Series (R)

- 1) Report No.: FNCA RWM-R001 (2003)
"Consolidated Report of Radioactive Waste Management"
- 2) Report No.: FNCA RWM-R002 (2003)
"Safe Management of Spent Radiation Sources"
- 3) Report No.: FNCA RWM-R003 (2005)
"Management of TENORM"
- 4) Report No.: FNCA RWM-R004 (2007)
"Updated Consolidated Report on Radioactive Waste Management in FNCA Countries"



b. Statement Series (S)

- 1) Statement No.: FNCA RWM-S001 (2003)
"Statement for the Promotion of the Joint Convention"

c. RWM Newsletters

No. 1- No.17 (as of February 2007) have been issued already.

Odd number editions are published by Japan, and even number editions are published by local host country of the RWM Workshop.

Each country's RWM Project Leader receive 50-60 prints for distribution in their country (coordinator and related organization).

Former Newsletters are available at the FNCA web-site.

d. RWM Database

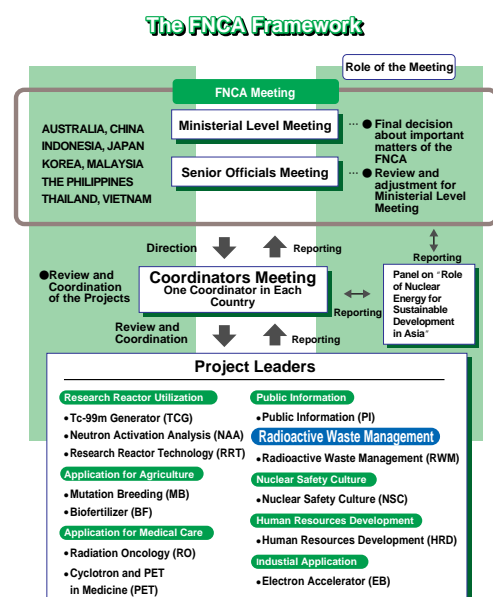
Articles on the RWM Project in the FNCA web-site have been enhanced.

URL of FNCA : <http://www.fnca.jp/english/>

Framework of FNCA

The Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (FNCA) has evolved from the International Conference for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia (ICNCA) which was established in 1990 with the aim of promoting the application of nuclear technology through collaboration among Asian countries. During this period the sharing of information, exchanges of scientific personnel and active cooperative research have been pursued in several fields.

Framework of FNCA is shown in the figure.



Introduction of RWM Project Leaders



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