

Development of Nuclear Forensics Capabilities in Thailand

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รายละเอียดสรุป

Today, one of the most serious security threats is nuclear terrorism. The Office of Atoms for Peace (OAP), Ministry of Science and Technology, as one of the national security organizations of Thailand, is well aware of and is concerned about this issue. The National Nuclear Forensics Laboratory (NNFL) was established in 2013 at OAP to enhance the capability of the nation to fight illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear material in Thailand. The NNFL are responsible for research and development of techniques to identify the production history and origin of those materials and establish a national nuclear forensics library. At the beginning, the necessary equipment such as ICP-MS, SEM/EDX, and gamma spectrometer were provided by the Thai Government and the European Commission, respectively. The NNFL was also supported under CBRN Centre of Excellence project no. 30 “Network of Excellence for Nuclear Forensics in South East Asia” for both equipment and expert missions. Nuclear forensics is not only to enhance the capability of OAP with advance instruments and facilities but also, and more importantly, to increase the confidence of nuclear forensics practitioners. Therefore, the developing and enhancing nuclear forensics capabilities—e.g., training and specialist support—are extremely necessary. The activities are not only to enhance competency and skills of specialists in the nuclear forensics field but also to strengthen cooperation of the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM). In this context, international cooperation serves to promote and enhance the sustainable development of nuclear forensics in the region.