

**Summary Report of Meeting:
“Establishment of an International Decommissioning Network”
Vienna, Austria, 29-31 Oct 2007
Paul Dinner, Scientific Secretary - IDN**

Forty representatives of thirty-two countries participated in the meeting, along with a representative from the EC.

The topic of decommissioning programme needs and potential to offer assistance within the Network context was introduced using the results of a questionnaire which had been circulated to all participants in the meeting in advance, and completed in detail by those eligible to receive TC assistance. The results indicated a clear preference for practical “hands on” training and demonstrations for smaller facilities (e.g. Research Reactors and Fuel-Cycle Facilities).

Following presentations by a number of participants addressing their decommissioning needs and potential contributions to the Network, breakout sessions were held to consider the needs and priorities as they pertained to:

- Research Reactors
- Fuel-cycle facilities
- Nuclear Power Plants
- Other (small) facilities such as medical or research labs

Feedback from the breakout groups was discussed in a plenary session. The feedback reflected the results obtained earlier in the questionnaire, and provided additional clarification of specific interests by facility type. All sessions supported work on a number of basic topics such as:

1. facility (radiological) characterization
2. cutting and decontamination techniques
3. management and clearance of decommissioning waste

The results from the break-out sessions were used by the Consultants (meeting in parallel) to develop a list of possible ‘events’ for early consideration by the IDN. This list (posted on this site) also recognized the need expressed by a number of MS present for assistance with specific topics such as:

4. “general training” on decommissioning to enable managers to develop decommissioning strategies and plans based on appropriate technologies
5. Cost estimation for small facilities
6. Remote applications and robotics
7. Project Management
8. Quality control

During the discussion of this list, several countries indicated their intent to host specific events pertaining to the items on the list which had been accorded the highest priority. These included Australia, Canada, France, Korea, Spain, Slovakia, South Africa, UK, and the US. Furthermore, during discussion of the list, a number of countries offered experts to participate in these events (e.g. Belgium Germany, Japan, The Philippines and Russian Federation). The delegate from China offered China’s recently shut down heavy water research reactor as a potential additional

decommissioning project within the frame of the R2D2 project, which is managed by the IAEA. The delegate from India offered to host an event on Radiation Protection and related Waste Management topics. Meeting participants from three training centres (INSTN in France, KAERI in Korea and Vuje in Slovakia) noted that they had available facilities which could be used for training such as that sought by the IDN. Pursuit of such offers is intended, as it would be consistent with the IDN's objective to create regional "nodes" for on-site training and demonstrations.

TM participants expressed interest in a web-based decommissioning forum to support the exchange of experience amongst IDN practitioners.

Finally, the TM participants agreed to the proposed Terms of Reference for the IDN, and supported the idea of an annual meeting augmented by sessions on selected topics of current interest. The concept of "Centres of Excellence" was presented, and the principle accepted that any MS which had developed a high level of expertise in decommissioning and which was willing to share their experience and expertise with those requiring it could be designated as a "Centre of Excellence in Decommissioning".

Immediately following the TM, the Consultants Group met to further develop the outlines of the specific activities accorded the highest priority. For items 1-5 of the bulleted list above, DRAFT outlines were prepared identifying the objective, target audience, potential host, additional contributors, timing and giving a brief description of the event. The Consultants Group also considered means to establish the networking "identity" of the IDN, including efficient/effective use of web-based tools. Principles for IDN operation were enunciated such as:

- Basic information should be provided on the web-site such as a list of contacts and interests (updated by participants themselves as necessary), equipment experience (data base) and upcoming activities (and links)
- The IDN Secretariat should "kick-start" exchanges between participants on specific topics.
- Bilateral exchanges should be encouraged, although such information should generally be visible to the other Participants. Substantive activities not requiring Agency funding may be developed directly by the host (initiator)
- Information should be kept up-to-date. Part of this process should involve the recipient of information committing to update information supplied based on his application of the information.
- After each IDN "event" a follow-on activity should be foreseen where the "value added" of the event can be discussed and added-to, and additional "momentum" provided to the Network.
- It may be possible to have an informal gathering of IDN participants following major WM and Decommissioning events such as the Tucson (Phoenix) Conference in early 2008, or Avignon in fall 2008

In developing the event-outlines, it was noted that these were supported in nearly all cases by Agency decommissioning activities such as documents in publication or other work in the approved programme plan. The next-steps in course development will involve formalizing arrangements with the proposed hosts, and

development/adaptation of course material. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to engage the IDN “Members” in reviewing and finalizing this material.