

Needs for Restoration of the Nuclear Knowledge Management in Serbia

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The former Yugoslavia had extensive nuclear programs in period from 1958 to 1988. Three research reactors and one nuclear power plant were constructed with the major participation of domestic experts, who successfully operated these facilities without any unwanted events. These nuclear programs had been supported by comprehensive R&D, appropriate educational programs at the Universities, as well as pertinent training at nuclear facilities in country and abroad.

During that time significant knowledge and operating experience have been gained, and high nuclear and radiation safety standards achieved. The most important results were accomplished in R&D within the research institutes. R&D also provided valuable courses for postgraduate studies. As a result, sufficient number and diversity of experts were available for various assignments in nuclear technology and related fields.

Since 1989. and especially during the past decade the nuclear expertise has been deteriorated significantly in Serbia due to several peculiar reasons: a) adoption of the ordinance of ban for nuclear power plants construction and related activities; b) isolation of the country due to the UN sanctions ; c) weak economical situation in the country. For these reasons many R&D programs were cancelled, nuclear courses at the University revoked and many professionals left the country.

Consequently, the loss of nuclear knowledge and expertise was inevitable. During last two years three significant nuclear projects have been launched with the support of the IAEA. They emphasized the need for nuclear expertise and the lack of nuclear professionals in the country to carry out these projects.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance to establish as soon as possible appropriate engineering education and training and prevent further loss of nuclear expertise. For that purpose it is necessary to commence several coordinated activities:

- preparation of educational programs and concepts of networking academic/university and the R&D institutions where the nuclear experts have remained;
- promotion of nuclear technologies through the existing professional association (Yugoslav Nuclear Society), with the special accent on the role of nuclear in sustainable development;
- promotion of environmental responsibility of nuclear technologies in the frame of Kyoto protocol principles;
- enhancement of public understanding and acceptance of nuclear technology.