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In Focus

Tajikistan's Experience in Conducting Trainings, Workshops and Meetings in the Field of Nuclear Security/ Radiation Protection/ Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Non-proliferation and Export Control

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The [Training Centre on WMD Non-proliferation and Export Control for Countries of Central Asia, Caucasus and Afghanistan](#) started operating in 2011 as a National Training Centre and received the status of a Regional Training Centre in March 2018. The Regional Training Centre was created on the basis of the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Agency of the National Academy of Sciences of Tajikistan and according to the Decree of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences on 5 November 2021, No. 117, the name of the Agency has been changed to the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Safety and Security Agency (CBRN SSA).

The Regional Training Centre is equipped with modern equipment and covers a wide range of services for education and training in the field of nuclear security and radiation safety, non-proliferation of WMD, and export control. The staff of the Regional Training Centre is involved in research and elaboration of new technologies in the field of nuclear security, radiation safety and non-proliferation of WMD.



Mobile Detection System (MDS) Operator Training for Border Guards at the Regional Training Centre on WMD, Non-Proliferation, and Export Control for Caucasus and Afghanistan (Photo: CBRN SSA)

The Regional Training Centre annually trains more than 500 specialists of the employees of state regulatory and law enforcement agencies, industrial, medical and educational institutions that use ionizing radiation sources in their activities supporting the entire region. Practical training courses are being conducted at various border and customs checkpoints for staff of the Border Guards, the State Committee of National Security, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in order to prevent the illegal trafficking of nuclear and other radioactive material.



Customs service staff after successfully completing a Radiation Portal Monitor (RPM) Operator and System Administration Training (Photo: CBRN SSA*)

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Regional Training Centre did not suspend its activities, but was able to adjust to existing realities and continued its activities. Our specialists were able to effectively combine lectures and sessions in the virtual format for interactive activities and e-learning. In cooperation with the IAEA, U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration, and other partners, a number of training courses were held for frontline officers, inspectors, lecturers, ionizing radiation sources users and other organizations interested in both online and offline formats while complying with all safety measures (e.g., social distancing, mask wearing and using antiseptics).



A hybrid training course for inspectors (Photo: CBRN SSA*)

Some of the practical training courses were conducted directly at border and customs checkpoints in real-time conditions. This allowed participants to identify weaknesses in the work of the border and customs services in the framework of ensuring nuclear security and radiation safety and to define the ways to solve them. Within the framework of practical courses, various scenarios were carried out for the detection of nuclear and other radioactive material using radiation portal monitors (RPMs) for vehicles and pedestrians and handheld devices for detection and identification.



Left: The process of working with specialized software on Mobile Detection System (MDS) Van

Right: Instructor providing an explanation on using a hand-held equipment (Photos: CBRN SSA*)

The Regional Training Centre also uses a variety of methods and tools for effective teaching such as lectures, group exercises, physical protection exercises, e-modules, hands-on exercises on RPMs and MDS operation, and use of handheld instruments to detect nuclear and other radioactive material. The Centre also organizes technical visits to laboratories and other facilities that use nuclear and other radioactive material in their activities.



Instructor providing an explanation about how the RPM system working at the border control point of Tajikistan (Photo: CBRN SSA)

In sum, our centre is a national, regional, interregional and international resource for capacity building and human resource development. CBRN SSA provides training courses, workshops, seminars and distance learning for interested organizations, is equipped with modern equipment, conducts research on new technologies, and covers a wide range of services for education and training in the field of nuclear security and radiation safety, non-proliferation of WMD, and export control.

**Please note, all photos were taken during in-person training sessions conducted prior to the COVID-19 pandemic*