

# Nuclear Security and Safety in Asia-Pacific: Old Issues and New Thinking

## East Asia Foundation

**Moderator** **KIM Sung-hwan** Former Foreign Minister of the ROK / Convener of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nuclear Security Summit  
**Presenter** **Nobuyasu ABE** Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament  
**John CARLSON** Senior Advisor, Nuclear Threat Initiative  
**Pervez HOODBHOY** Distinguished Professor of Physics & Mathematics, Forman Christian College, Z. Z. Ahmad, Pakistan  
**SHEN Dingli** Associate Dean, Institute of International Studies, Fudan University  
**Rapporteur** **MIN In-young** Doctoral Candidate, University of Southern California

### ■ Nuclear Security Summit

The main achievement of the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) process was to focus high-level political attention on nuclear security and ensure that governments began to give this subject priority.

While there was some disappointment that it did not set mandatory commitments, participants in the summit offered various voluntary commitments including reduction in holdings of weapons-usable materials, hosting peer reviews, consolidated reporting on nuclear security implementation and establishment of Centers of Excellence.

A particularly important achievement was to secure the number of ratifications needed to bring the Amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) into force.

One of the drawbacks of the NSS is that some key states such as Russia and Pakistan refused to participate in the summit. Also, it did not touch upon the fundamental problem of the difficulty in monitoring clandestine nuclear weapons programs due to their opaque nature.

### ■ International Cooperation for Nuclear Security

Conditions for better international cooperation for nuclear security include training of customs personnel through, for example, Centers of Excellence.

Peer reviews are also a very important mechanism in nuclear safety, and we must aim to make them as widespread as possible.

Tangible progress on international cooperation also depends on:

- 1) whether national leaders can give sustained and personal attention to the issue,
- 2) developing a format capable of eliciting commitments from nuclear powers and
- 3) developing a set of agreed protocols and procedures that would specifically keep nuclear materials away from terrorist groups.

The 2016 summit resulted in five action plans (UN, IAEA, Interpol, GICNT and GP) to achieve the goals of the summit. What is essential to nuclear security and safety is mandatory international standards, but there is strong resistance to this.



### ■ Nuclear Security Cooperation in Northeast Asia

One of the ways in which countries in the region can work together toward nuclear security is to share knowledge of inherently secure technology for storing nuclear materials.

In order to promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, it is critical to improve the international security environment and the two nuclear superpowers bear special responsibilities.

The negative cycle of action-reaction will not be of help in international collaboration on nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy, as well as nuclear security and safety.

### ■ Nuclear Terrorism

The key concern is whether all national authorities take the threat seriously enough and put in place strong measures against possible terrorist activities.

Greater international cooperation is needed on sharing intelligence information, and reviewing performance and best practices, among others.

International cooperation in eliminating materials should also remain a high priority.

### ■ Security of Military Nuclear Materials

It should not be missed that many military materials are not in weapons or weapons components, but are bulk materials in storage or processing.

## Policy Implications

- For nuclear safety, the Northeast Asian Nuclear Safety Council could be created so that there is an inter-state mechanism to promote regional safety standard enhancement and implementation.
- For nuclear security, experts and security staff in the region could use various facilities at Centers of Excellence in the region to work on scenario-based nuclear security simulation and training.
- In order to prevent nuclear terrorism, we need to shift our attention from nuclear material to human agencies.