

Foreign Ministry and FANR host IAEA workshop on safeguards in UAE

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More than 100 representatives from about 60 government entities, academic institutions and industry are attending a national workshop this week in Abu Dhabi on the implementation of the UAE's safeguards obligations under international agreements.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) have invited experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to conduct the National Workshop on the Implementation of the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) and the Additional Protocol (AP).

"Close cooperation with the IAEA and conformance to its requirements and standards is a cornerstone of our civilian nuclear energy programme," said Ambassador Hamad Al Ka'abi, the UAE's Permanent Representative to the IAEA, in a message he sent to the opening session of the workshop.

"This event will help enhance the UAE's ability to implement IAEA safeguards now that we also have the Additional Protocol in force," he added.

"We have international obligations under the framework of the IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Additional protocol. Government entities, industry and relevant stakeholders will have to work closely with the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation to ensure efficient and their successful implementation."

The week-long workshop lectures by the IAEA experts will focus on the legal, technical and practical aspects of the international safeguards system, such as the obligations of a state, nuclear material accounting, import and export controls and filing reports to the IAEA.

Christer Viktorsson, FANR Deputy Director for Operations, also added that FANR was tasked with establishing a State System of Accounting for and Control of Nuclear Material (SSAC), which will be the UAE's gateway of reporting to the IAEA under the country's safeguards obligations.

"We will issue our safeguards regulation this year," he said. "This workshop comes at a crucial time when we are identifying companies, organisations and entities that need to notify FANR of any nuclear material in their possession."

The UAE became a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1995. Under this treaty, each non-nuclear weapon state has to declare its nuclear material and programmes to the IAEA, and the IAEA has to verify the peaceful nature of a state's nuclear programme on behalf of the international community. The UAE brought into force its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA) with the IAEA in 2003, and the Additional Protocol (AP) in 2010.