

SASSI's Workshop on Non-Proliferation, Nuclear and Radiation Safety

Dr. Ahmed S Syed & Ms. Maria Sultan

An appropriate, in-time and focused comprehension, analysis and policy recommendation of the contemporary strategic stability issues is a big challenge for academia, state officials, opinion makers, and the political leadership. The multi-disciplinary nature of these issues demands systematic and analytical approach and well-planned efforts to understand the complexity of the problems fully. In this context, Islamabad chapter of UK originated think tank, 'South Asian Strategic Stability Institute (SASSI)', organized a two-week workshop-cum-training course on the theme 'Non-Proliferation, Nuclear and Radiation Safety and New Related Technologies' during 23rd February-6th March 2009 at Islamabad, Pakistan. The venue of this workshop was SASSI's office in Islamabad. This perhaps was the first technical event of its kind in the country covering a range of policy dimensions as well as scientific issues directly intersecting with the spheres of policy making in the areas of nuclear, radiation and nanotechnologies. The resource personnel chosen to give away their lectures during the course also belonged to multidisciplinary backgrounds. The attendees of the workshop-cum-training course came from the research-fraternity, SASSI policy-fellows, and relevant members of scientific and strategic organizations.

Ms. Maria Sultan, Director SASSI inaugurated the workshop-cum-training course with the welcoming remarks and elaborated further on the objectives of the workshop. The training workshop was conducted in 30 lecturing, 2 quizzes, 1 self-study and 1 video session.

The speakers of this unique two-week workshop-cum-training course included the experts and researchers from policy as well as scientific & technical backgrounds. The policy side was covered by Ms. Maria Sultan (SASSI), Dr. Riffat Hussain (Quaid-i-Azam University), Mr. Aman ullah Khan (SASSI), Mr. Abdul Basit (Spokesperson, Foreign Office), Ms. Ghazala Nayyar (SASSI), Mr. Masood ur Rehman (SASSI), Ms. Sana Chaudhry (SASSI), Ms. Sobia Paracha (SASSI), and Mr. Tahir Ahmad (SASSI), where as Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed (International Islamic University & SASSI), Dr. Tajammul Hussain (National Centre of Physics), Dr. M. Sadiq (PNRA), Mr. M. Ayub (PNRA), Mr. M. Rehman (PNRA), Mr. Abdul Shakoor (PNRA), Mr. M. Nadeem (PNRA), Mr. Irfan Younus (PNRA), Mr. Ammar Mehdi (PNRA), and Mr. Tahir Saleem (PNRA) covered the technical topics.

The scientific briefings comprised of topics such as Natural and man made radiation source, Dose Standards and Methods for Protection against Radiation & Contamination, Radiation Terminology, Biological Effects of Radiation, The Fission Process and Heat Production, Nuclear Power for Electrical Generation, Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) Systems, 325 MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant, Radioactive Waste Management, Transportation of Radioactive Material, Physical Protection & Nuclear Security, Emergency Planning and Preparedness of Nuclear Power Plants, PNRA organization and its Structure, Overview of PNRA licensing Process, Introduction to Nanotechnology and its Implications, and Chemistry-based Applications of Nanotechnology. Detailed presentations were also made addressing the strategically viable and important issues such as Non proliferation, Deterrence, Nuclear Safety and Security, Indo-US deal: Technical assessment, Development of Pakistan's Nuclear program, Pakistan's participation in organizations related to Non-Proliferation, Pakistan Ballistic Missile Program and Indian ABM systems, Pakistan and China Export Control System, Indian Nuclear Doctrine and Pakistan Nuclear Doctrine.

The participants thanked the organizers of the Workshop-cum-Training Course, particularly Ms. Maria Sultan, Director SASSI and unanimously hoped that more similar events will be held in future with a focus on multidisciplinary research and capacity building in the unique and emerging areas of strategic stability and associated policies.