



STMO joins IAEA, PNRI on National Security Detection Architecture Expert Mission

The Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO) participated in the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Expert Mission for the Philippine Government on Nuclear Security Detection Architecture (NSDA) Strategy held from 20 to 24 September 2021 via Webex VTC.

The five-day expert mission was hosted by the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI), with support from IAEA, and attended by relevant government agencies. The NSDA is one of IAEA's nuclear security series guidelines that integrates a set of nuclear security systems and measures, based on an appropriate legal and regulatory framework, needed to implement a national strategy for detecting material out of regulatory control (MORC). The expert mission aimed to conduct state-level planning by identifying relevant government agencies and their current detection capabilities, looking into relevant laws and international instruments, and formulating nuclear security risk assessment.

Engr. Lorenz Anthony Fernando, Chief of STMO Registration and Authorization Division, delivered a presentation on the implementation of Republic Act No. 10697 or the Strategic Trade Management Act (STMA).

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He emphasized that the STMO, as the licensing agency on the international transfers of nuclear goods, will follow the Nuclear Supplier Group's guidelines to evaluate license applications. He further expressed STMO's commitment to supporting the PNRI to implement IAEA safeguards provisions and assist in the reportorial requirements to the IAEA on transferring nuclear-related goods.

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The panel of experts from the IAEA composed of Mr. Mirza Mohamed (IAEA), Ms. Monaliya Kostor (Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB), Malaysia), Dr. Vi Nguyen Nu Hoai (Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (VARANS), Vietnam) and Mr. Nurman Rahmadi (Badan Pengawas Tenaga Nuklir (BAPETEN), Indonesia) facilitated the discussion after each government agency presented their respective mandates and existing capabilities. At the end of the mission, the experts gave an initial analysis of the Philippine government agencies' existing capabilities, gaps identified, and necessary next steps to enhance awareness of the importance of the NSDA and ensure an integrated planning process for the development of the Philippines' NSDA. END

