“Countries ...must be able to transfer education and training capacity together with the technology they provide.”

Yukiya Amano

As a worldwide gateway, GNSSN assists countries in building capacity in a safe and secure way via international, regional and national networks and portals.

The GNSSN supports collaboration and cooperation in the area of nuclear safety and security on a global scale among national authorities, specialists, international organizations, forums and working groups.
CREATING A COMMUNITY

Keeping up with emerging trends, new information, lessons learned or best practices in nuclear safety and security is vital for virtually every professional from every sector in the nuclear community. But, keeping up with it all is becoming more challenging and complex as the flow of information is less like a flow and more like a flood—with huge amounts of information coming in everyday from multiple, divergent directions. Moreover, connecting and maintaining solid professional relationships and even finding the “right” nuclear expert from within the diverse fields of nuclear science and technology is inherently difficult for any number of reasons—skillset needed, resource availability, and geographic location, to name a few.

Nonetheless, internet advances paired with advances in technology in the 21st century have evolved new tools to address the problems of “keeping up” and “staying connected”; especially with the advent of stronger, faster computer networks and the popularity of human networks via virtual communities. Sites like Facebook, Linkedin, Twitter, and so on have taken networking to a whole new level.

At its core, a “virtual community” is a way for like-minded people to cross geographical and political boundaries virtually to connect, communicate and collaborate with each other through digital networks.
The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who do not have access to technology and information to learn, unlearn and relearn.

Alvin Toffler
Author of “Future Shock”, and former associate editor of Fortune magazine
INSAG Advocates Networking

In its 2006 report on Strengthening the Global Nuclear Safety Regime, the International Nuclear Safety Group (INSAG) advocates and urges Member States and international organizations to adopt this type of networking:

“The Global Nuclear Safety Regime is the framework for achieving the worldwide implementation of a high level of safety at nuclear installations. Its core is the activities undertaken by each country to ensure the safety and security of the nuclear installations within its jurisdiction. But national efforts are and should be augmented by the activities of a variety of international enterprises that facilitate nuclear safety — intergovernmental organizations, multinational networks among operators, multinational networks among regulators, the international nuclear industry, multinational networks among scientists, international standards setting organizations and other stakeholders such as the public, news media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are engaged in nuclear safety. All of these efforts should be harnessed to enhance the achievement of safety.”

Evolution

INSAG’s pronouncement in 2006 set the precedent for the IAEA to launch the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) in 2007. The GNSSN was developed to address the connection, collaboration, and capacity building and information needs of the overall global community; it proved beneficial to newcomers who need to develop new nuclear and radiation protection safety and security infrastructures, as well as mature Members States needing to strengthen and improve their existing infrastructures.

Since then, GNSSN has evolved into a strong human “virtual community” — a network comprising more than 18 networks (and growing) to include: global, regional and national safety and security networks, fora and portals. The GNSSN has become the worldwide gateway for Member States to share with each other their nuclear safety and security knowledge, expertise, lessons learned, training and services to facilitate capacity building. GNSSN also assists in harmonizing and implementing activities from global initiatives at regional and national levels, and strongly encourages its community members to take ownership of the processes needed to grow the network.
Who is INSAG?

The International Nuclear Safety Group (INSAG) is a group of highly competent professional experts in the field of nuclear safety, working in regulatory organizations, research and academic institutions and the nuclear industry. INSAG is constituted under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with the objective of providing authoritative advice and guidance on nuclear safety approaches, policies and principles for nuclear installations (defined as nuclear power plants, fuel cycle facilities, research reactors and support facilities). In particular, INSAG provides recommendations and informed opinions on current and emerging nuclear safety issues, to the international nuclear community and public through the offices of the IAEA.
CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

Translating Vision Into Reality

As a means to assist the IAEA in moving toward its goal of continually strengthening nuclear safety and security in Member States, the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Network (GNSSN) connects Member States to each other and to the collaborative communities of practice at large. Through innovation and modern technology, the GNSSN will bring Member States into the 21st century, granting them online access to the many informational resources and to the various ways in which to communicate with other nuclear experts worldwide. The GNSSN will further endeavour to maximize and maintain the quality of all of its component global experts, regional and national safety and security networks by promoting information of high interest and significant value and by providing a consistent and integrated online presence to meet the evolving needs of its users.

Sponsors and Partners

The recent Memorandum of Understanding on Nuclear Safety between the European Commission and the IAEA establishes a framework for cooperation to aid in strengthening nuclear safety worldwide, in particular through the European Union’s Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.

Other practical arrangements also exist, for instance, between the IAEA and their key regional network partners, such as: the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN), the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators (ANNuR), the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies in Africa (FNRBA) and the Ibero-American Forum of Radiological and Nuclear Regulatory Agencies (FORO).
Working Toward the End Goal

With nuclear safety and security as its end goal, the GNSSN’s threefold mission helps Member States:

1. Connect to exchange, pool and share nuclear safety and security information, building strategic partnerships among governments, educational institutions, technical support organizations, regulators, operators, nuclear experts and specialists worldwide.

2. Communicate to effectively share nuclear safety and security knowledge, good practices, lessons learned and expertise openly. Continued access to up-to-date nuclear safety and security scientific and technical literature helps Member States avoid knowledge decay and human obsolescence.

3. Collaborate to build capacity, strengthening the global nuclear safety and security framework by providing Member States with access to resources to collaboratively assist them in building competences via training workshops, IAEA safety standards and security guidance and safety peer review and advisory services.
With 100+ members and more joining daily, the Agency strongly believes that the GNSSN networks should be evaluated and measured periodically to ensure that the community is connecting and that the networks are performing to everyone’s satisfaction. The GNSSN’s success largely depends upon the degree to which it organizes information resources as well as maximizes user accessibility to it and each other. The GNSSN periodically conducts surveys and monitors the use, effectiveness and results achieved.

The GNSSN team is always eager to hear from users and learn about anything which might be of help to increase the quality and value of the GNSSN user experience. To assist them in their continuous improvement efforts, Members will be asked to participate in surveys, giving them a chance to provide feedback on their experiences as well as provide suggestions for improvement so that GNSSN users have the best networking experience possible.

**GNSSN - Building capacity, sustaining results**

Capacity building is much more than training: it is a conceptual approach to strengthening the skills, competencies and abilities of nuclear professionals through human resource development, knowledge management and knowledge networks as well as focused education and training programmes.

The GNSSN platform provides Member States with the ability to share information that will assist them in all aspects of capacity building. Member States can interact through the GNSSN (nationally, regionally and globally) in an effort to widely share expertise as well as strengthen their nuclear safety and security infrastructures.
How GNSSN Works

People who cultivate connections and relationships in a wider variety of networking contexts have greater opportunities to learn more, grow professionally and have a bigger impact on safety and security in their own countries.
The GNSSN network comprises a variety of IAEA sponsored networks including the global topical networks, such as the International Regulatory Network (RegNet); regional networks developed in cooperation with the IAEA, such as the Asian Nuclear Safety Network (ANSN), the Forum of Nuclear Regulatory Bodies of Africa (FNRBA) or the Arab Network of Nuclear Regulators (ANNuR). Member States also provide access to their own national networks via their National Nuclear Regulatory Portals (NNRPs). Additionally, information and links to other safety networks is made available to Member States through the GNSSN, for example the Western European Nuclear Regulators’ Association (WENRA), the European Nuclear safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) and the European Technical Safety Organization Group (ETSON).
Top 10 Reasons People Join GNSSN

1. Access information on advisory and peer review services
2. Collaborate with other experts
3. Develop partnerships
4. Gain access to workshops and trainings
5. Help to build the capacity and competences of other GNSSN members
6. Improve knowledge of nuclear and radiation protection safety and security
7. Join communities of practice
8. Share national safety and security infrastructure best practices
9. Share knowledge, experience and expertise
10. Strengthen the Global Nuclear Safety and Security Framework

How to Register

Certain parts of the GNSSN can be accessed by registered users only. If you have not yet registered for access to either Nucleus or GNSSN, go to http://gnssn.iaea.org. and complete the online registration form. New users will automatically receive confirmation of registration via email notification. After receiving the email confirmation, forward this email to the GNSSN Administrator requesting access to the desired network(s). For more information, go to: http://gnssn.iaea.org/Pages/UserRegistration.aspx.