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## Advanced Capacity Building in Preparedness and Response to Nuclear and Severe Radiological Accidents



Mr. Tao Xuan Khanh of Vietnam attended scientific visit in The Nuclear Power Institute, at Texas A&M University in cooperation with The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), The South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company, Matagorda County Emergency Response Center and Disaster City – Emergency Operations Training Center, as a participant in the IAEA Scientific Visit Program. In Vietnam, Mr. Dung has been working at Military Institute of Chemistry and Environment since 2004 as Researcher at Nuclear Safety and Emergency Response Department. He is responsible for radiological and nuclear emergency preparedness and response, environmental monitoring. Mr. Tao's scientific visit was directed by Dr. K. Peddicord and consist of lectures and participation as observers in a large-scale drill.

The major elements of scientific visit were: Lessons from the Fukushima nuclear accident Role of the IAEA Incident

and Emergency Centre (IEC) and US Federal and State agencies in emergency preparedness and response, management and response to nuclear and radiological emergencies, a large-scale dress rehearsal (drill) for a graded emergency exercise planned by the South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company (STPNOC) and by the Matagorda County Emergency Operations Center.

The scientific visit provided practical experience with the U.S. command and control system to respond, manage, and recover from nuclear or radiological emergencies. The training program also considered a wide spectrum of national U.S. experience in possible operations, ranging from pre-incident planning and preparation, issues to be addressed during the incident, key decision points, critical information needed to initiate appropriate actions. The scientific visit included consideration of the field incident command post perspective to the emergency, the coordination of multi-agency work at the local, regional or national levels, including communications with the media and the public.

The training program also addressed the key managerial issues in U.S. such as (1) definition of roles and responsibilities of federal, state and local agencies in responding to the unique characteristics of nuclear/radiological incidents; (2) the specific capabilities, and assets need for an efficient response; (3) the organization, notification, and emergency activation processes and (4) specialized support for incident-related actions.

After completion of the visit, Mr. Tao will share all the experience and knowledge gained at this scientific visit with his co-workers, fellows and other stakeholders and help to improving in developing legal documents and capacity on preparedness and response in Vietnam.

**TAO XUAN KHANH**

PROJECT VIE-16004V

**Vietnam**

5/23/2016 — 6/3/2016