REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON RADIOLOGICAL CRIME SCENE MANAGEMENT

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Effective management of radiological crime scenes is a critical component of nuclear security, particularly in incidents involving the suspected presence of radioactive materials. To strengthen regional capabilities in radiological crime scene management, the Regional Workshop on Radiological Crime Scene Management was conducted from 16 to 20 June 2025 in Manila, Philippines. The workshop was hosted by the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) with technical support from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Participants comprised representatives from several Southeast Asian countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, and Vietnam, as well as participants from the host country, the Philippines.

Group Photo of Participants at the Regional Workshop on Radiological Crime Scene Management.

The programme focused on strengthening national and regional preparedness for radiological crime scene management in accordance with IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 22-G: Radiological Crime Scene Management. The primary objective of the workshop was to build national capacity for safe, effective, and efficient operations at crime scenes where nuclear or other radioactive materials are known or suspected to be present. Sessions were delivered through a combination of lectures, case studies, and table-top exercises. Topics covered responder safety, control of contaminated areas, protection of evidence, and coordination between technical personnel and law enforcement agencies. Practical exercises exposed participants to realistic scenarios and encouraged the application of concepts introduced during the lectures. A key benefit of the workshop was the sharing of national practices and experiences, highlighting both common challenges and different national approaches.



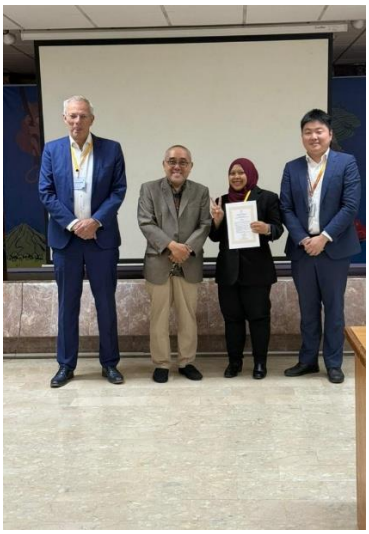
IAEA experts delivered lectures, complemented by hands-on experience with radiation detection instruments.

The workshop further strengthened national capabilities through the exchange of strategies and implementation approaches aligned with international guidance. The programme commenced with introductory sessions on crime scene management principles, threat awareness, radiation fundamentals, and basic radiation protection. Participants were given hands-on exposure to radiation detection instruments, including personal radiation detectors, radionuclide identification devices, survey meters, and high-purity germanium (HPGe) systems. Subsequent sessions addressed roles and responsibilities at radiological crime scenes, crime scene management procedures, and an introduction to nuclear forensics. Practical activities included the use of personal protective equipment, radiation surveys to locate and identify radioactive materials, and the collection and handling of evidence contaminated with radionuclides. Command and control concepts were introduced through structured table-top exercises and a live play exercise. These activities simulated realistic scenarios involving initial scene assessment, operational and safety planning, and evidence retrieval, followed by structured debriefing sessions. Throughout the workshop, participants presented their national plans, procedures, and existing capabilities related to radiological crime scene management. These exchanges highlighted common challenges such as limited technical capacity, legal and jurisdictional considerations, interagency coordination, and access to sustainable resources and funding.



Participants engaged in a table-top exercise simulating radiological crime scene management scenarios.

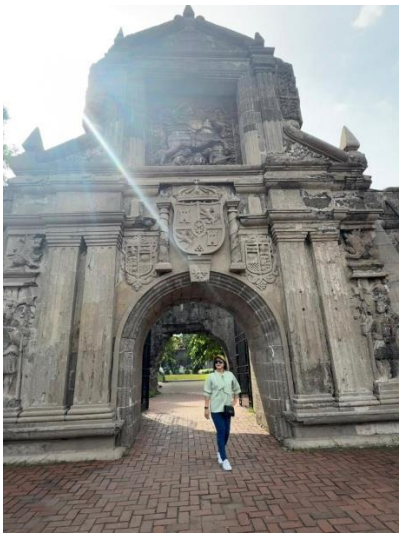
From a Malaysian perspective, the workshop clarified the role of radiological crime scene management within the broader nuclear security and emergency response framework. Discussions emphasised the importance of clear procedures, well-defined roles, and effective communication between agencies during an incident. The workshop underscored that radiological crime scene management extends beyond technical tasks and requires close collaboration between radiation protection specialists, forensic experts, and law enforcement officers to ensure safety without compromising the integrity of the investigation.


Dr. Zalina Laili (left) and Ms. Suzilawati Muhd Sarowi (center) from Nuklear Malaysia, with Ms. Sofia Aida Ngah (right) from ATOM Malaysia, Malaysia representatives at the certification ceremony.

The Regional Workshop on Radiological Crime Scene Management enhanced regional capabilities in responding to incidents involving radioactive materials. Participants gained practical knowledge and hands-on experience in radiation detection, evidence handling, and crime scene management while sharing national practices and approaches. The workshop highlighted the need for strong collaboration between technical personnel and law enforcement agencies, supported by clear procedures and effective communication. For Malaysia, the workshop reinforced the importance of integrating radiological crime scene management within the broader nuclear security and emergency response framework, strengthening national preparedness and contributing to regional nuclear security.





A glimpse of Manila alongside the Regional Workshop on Radiological Crime Scene Management.