

NEA nuclear law education programmes

by B. Okra*

International School of Nuclear Law

The 11th session of the International School of Nuclear Law (ISNL), a unique academic programme organised by the NEA and the University of Montpellier 1, took place on 22 August-2 September 2011.

Over the past 11 sessions, the ISNL has trained more than 600 participants from around the world. This last session brought together 57 participants from 33 countries who benefited from lectures delivered by 25 highly renowned experts such as Mr. Stephen Burns, General Counsel of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Dr. Norbert Pelzer, Honorary President of the International Nuclear Law Association, and Mrs. Laura Rockwood, Section Head for Non-proliferation and Policy-making Organs in the IAEA office of Legal Affairs. Mr. Paul Bowden from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, London, United Kingdom, served as programme leader and engaged participants in various Q&A sessions and case studies.

A special panel was organised to address the Fukushima Daiichi accident and its impact on nuclear safety, radiological protection and emergency management instruments. Participants showed considerable interest with their follow-up questions and comments.

Participants enrolled in the ISNL programme have the possibility of applying for a University Diploma in International Nuclear Law recognised by the University of Montpellier 1. This diploma is also recognised within the ECTS (European Credit Transfer & Accumulation System) and represents 12 credits. Components of the final grade for the award of the diploma include satisfactory class participation, a multiple-choice questionnaire to be taken roughly a month after the course and a dissertation on nuclear law to be completed before mid-December the same year. This year, 42 participants applied for the diploma out of the 57 who attended the session.

International Nuclear Law Essentials

Building on the success of the International School of Nuclear Law, the NEA launched a new one-week course called International Nuclear Law Essentials (INLE). The first session took place on 3-7 October 2011 at the NEA in the Paris area and attracted 35 participants from 19 countries.

The INLE covers all aspects of international nuclear law. It is primarily designed for lawyers from both the public and private sectors, but is also of interest to others who are active in the nuclear field (scientists, policy makers...).

The programme consists of individual presentations followed by discussion periods during which relevant scenarios are analysed. During this year's programme, lectures were delivered by well-known specialists in nuclear law from international organisations, governments, the nuclear industry and other experts in the nuclear field, many of whom teach or have taught at the ISNL. The keynote speech was delivered by Lord Hutton of Furness, a former Secretary of State and Member of Parliament, and currently the Chairman of the Royal United Services Institute and of the Nuclear Industry Association. As for the ISNL, the programme was conducted under the leadership of Paul Bowden.

The following 13 topics were addressed over a five-day period:

- Introduction to nuclear law;
- International radiological protection standards;
- Nuclear accident notification and assistance;
- Nuclear safety;
- Nuclear regulatory activities;
- Management of spent fuel and radioactive waste;
- Nuclear activities and environmental law;
- Liability, compensation and insurance for nuclear damage;
- Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and international safeguards for nuclear materials;
- Nuclear security: physical protection, illicit trafficking and terrorism;
- International trade in nuclear material and equipment;
- Transport of nuclear materials and fuel;
- Nuclear law in context.

The next INLE session will be held on 4-8 June 2012. More information regarding both programmes, including applications, is available on the NEA website at www.oecd-nea.org/law/.

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