

ESI-CIL Nuclear Governance Project

A multidisciplinary research project by the Energy Studies Institute & Centre for International Law

Summary

The Energy Studies Institute (ESI) and the Centre for International Law (CIL), both of NUS, have secured a research grant from Singapore's National Research Foundation entitled "Policy and Law for Nuclear Safety and Security" as part of the Singapore Government's Nuclear Policy Research Programme (NPRP Award No. NRF2014NPR-NPRP001-005). With funding of over two million Singapore Dollars, the three-year Nuclear Governance Project, which began on 4 January 2016, is staffed by a multidisciplinary academic team carrying out research in the governance of nuclear safety, security and civil liability for nuclear damage.

The project will focus on two main research areas: international, regional and national legislative and regulatory frameworks for nuclear safety and security; and nuclear liability.

Dr Philip Andrews-Speed, Senior Principal Fellow at ESI is the principal investigator for the project. Associate Professor Robert Beckman, Head of Ocean Law and Policy at CIL, is the co-principal investigator.

Context

Growing interest in the use of nuclear energy world-wide and particularly in Asia raises a number of safety and security concerns. Some of these concerns arise in part from an apparent lack of a unified global governance regime and complexities due to multiple levels of governance in Asia. At present, Singapore is seeking to gain further knowledge and expertise in order to play a part in strengthening nuclear governance.

The project aims to carry out multidisciplinary research into the international, regional and national governance regimes for the safe and secure uses of nuclear energy, with an aim of proposing recommendations for strengthening current regimes.

Overall Project Objectives

Centred around research, networking and capacity building, the overall objectives of the project are to:

- carry out and publish policy and academic research in the field of nuclear law and policy in collaboration with other institutions inside and outside Singapore;
- establish Singapore as an internationally-recognised centre for policy and academic research in this field;
- build Singapore's capacity and expertise in this field;
- establish a training programme for Singapore-based officials; and
- establish a regional and global network of academics, professionals, and research institutions,

thereby contributing to the enhancement of global and regional nuclear safety and security.

Turn over for more information ...

Specific Research Questions

In addition to examining the governance of nuclear safety and security at the international, regional and national levels, the project will also specifically evaluate governance in the fields of nuclear liability, emergency preparedness and response, the maritime transport of radioactive material and the disposal of spent fuel and radioactive waste. Finally, in drawing on this work, implications for the future will be assessed in light of new nuclear-build (particularly in developing countries) involving new vendors, technologies and challenges.

For each governance regime, the primary question is how effective is it, what explains its degree of effectiveness and how can it be strengthened? This will include an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the normative framework and how national and local conditions shape the adoption and implementation of such a framework.

Collaboration and Outreach

ESI and CIL have considerable experience and expertise in the fields of international energy governance and international law, including in the area of transboundary risks and pollution. These capacities will be enhanced through the development of an international network of institutions and individuals with expertise in nuclear law and policy. Potential collaborators will include, individual specialists, universities, think tanks, research institutes, legal and other professional firms, international and non-governmental organisations and energy companies.

*For further information, please contact either
Philip Andrews-Speed (esicpa@nus.edu.sg) or CIL Project Coordinator Denise Cheong (denisecheong@nus.edu.sg)
www.nucleargovernance.sg*