

26 January 2009

Chem-Bio News

1. CHINA URGES JAPAN: FULFILL PLEDGE TO DESTROY ABANDONED WWII

CHEMICAL ARMS: *"Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu made the remarks in a comment on a report by the Japanese newspaper Sankei Shimbun that Japan had decided to freeze its abandoned chemical arms destruction program in the Harbaling area of China's Jilin Province and slash the associated spending."*

2. PNNL HELPS PROTECT FIRST RESPONDERS: *"The Department of Homeland Security has accepted PNNL to test and evaluate commercially available radiation detectors through its new GRaDER program - Graduated Radiation and Nuclear Detector Evaluation and Reporting."*

3. PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS: STRENGTHENING CDC'S EMERGENCY

RESPONSE: *"A CDC Report on Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (TPER)-Funded Activities."*

4. CANADA INCREASES SUPPORT TO NNSA EFFORT TO FIGHT NUCLEAR

TERRORISM: *"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today that it will expand the ongoing partnership with Canada to help combat nuclear terrorism around the world. Under an agreement signed with NNSA's Second Line of Defense (SLD) program, Canada will provide nearly \$4 million (US) for nuclear nonproliferation work in Ukraine."*

5. DOE WANTS A NEUTRON SENSOR TO LOWER INTO CONTAINER SHIPS:

"The sensor devices, which would attempt to detect neutron-emitting materials on board a vessel, would include a Bluetooth transceiver that could transfer its data to a Bluetooth-enabled laptop."

6. PLUTONIUM FOUND IN SAFE AT HANFORD IS HISTORIC: *"Researchers at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland traced its origins to the first batch of weapons-grade materials ever processed at Hanford."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

CHINA URGES JAPAN: FULFILL PLEDGE TO DESTROY ABANDONED WWII CHEMICAL ARMS

Xinhua News Agency
January 23, 2009

"China on Friday urged Japan to abide by a commitment to destroy chemical weapons abandoned in China during World War II.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu made the remarks in a comment on a report by the Japanese newspaper Sankei Shimbun that Japan had decided to freeze its abandoned chemical arms destruction program in the Harbaling area of China's Jilin Province and slash the associated spending."

The full article can be found at: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-01/23/content_10708995.htm

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PNNL HELPS PROTECT FIRST RESPONDERS

By Staci West

Pacific Northwest National Lab News Release

January 20, 2009

"Emergency responders put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve. When they respond to a potential terrorist event, they need to know that the tools they purchased to detect radiation will work -- and will work well.

Scientists at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will now help ensure those tools work properly. The Department of Homeland Security has accepted PNNL to test and evaluate commercially available radiation detectors through its new GRaDER program - Graduated Radiation and Nuclear Detector Evaluation and Reporting.

PNNL is the first U.S. laboratory to be accepted to play this role."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.pnl.gov/news/release.asp?id=345>

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PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS: STRENGTHENING CDC'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

January 16, 2009

"CDC's Coordinating Office for Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (COTPER) has released its inaugural report on CDC activities in public health emergency preparedness. The report, Public Health Preparedness: Strengthening CDC's Emergency Response, explains the key role CDC plays in preparing the public health infrastructure to respond effectively to all types of hazards, and provides an overview of the broad range of preparedness activities receiving Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response (TPER) funding. CDC accomplishments in preparedness are described. The report also details how CDC is addressing challenges to achieve its overarching public health preparedness goal: "People prepared for emerging health threats - people in all communities will be protected from infectious, occupational, environmental, and terrorist threats." The report is an important part of CDC's overall focus to demonstrate results, drive program improvements, and

increase accountability for the country's investment in public health preparedness activities."

"The full article can be found at: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/publications/jan09phprep/pdf/jan09phprep.pdf>

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CANADA INCREASES SUPPORT TO NNSA EFFORT TO FIGHT NUCLEAR TERRORISM

"US National Nuclear Security Administration News Release

January 21, 2009

"The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced today that it will expand the ongoing partnership with Canada to help combat nuclear terrorism around the world. Under an agreement signed with NNSA's Second Line of Defense (SLD) program, Canada will provide nearly \$4 million (US) for nuclear nonproliferation work in Ukraine. This is the second contribution from the Government of Canada to SLD's work with Ukraine. Since 2005, Canada has provided nearly \$20 million in contributions to three NNSA programs – SLD, the Global Threat Reduction Initiative and the Elimination of Weapons Grade Plutonium Production program."

"In December 2008, NNSA, the Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (ASBGS) and Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada held a ceremony at Ukraine's Kyiv Boryspil International Airport to commission the operation of radiation detection equipment. Canada's additional \$4 million contribution to the SLD program will be used to provide radiation detection equipment to Ukraine's international border crossings in order to deter nuclear smuggling and fight the proliferation of nuclear and radiological material that could be used in weapons of mass destruction or dirty bombs."

"International contributions, whether financial or in-kind, augment NNSA programs aimed at improving the capabilities of our international partners to detect, secure and dispose of dangerous nuclear and radiological material. To date, NNSA has received support from Canada, Finland, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom to pursue nonproliferation efforts around the world, including:

- Over \$31 million to shut down the last remaining weapons-grade plutonium production reactors in Russia.
- Nearly \$8 million to reduce and protect vulnerable nuclear and radiological materials located at civilian nuclear sites worldwide.
- Over \$10 million to strengthen security at international land borders, seaports and airports that may be used as smuggling routes for nuclear or radiological materials.

NNSA's Second Line of Defense Program works collaboratively with foreign governments at border crossings, airports, seaports and other points of entry to install specialized radiation detection equipment and associated communications equipment. The SLD Program also provides training to host government border guard officials and other personnel to detect smuggled nuclear and other radioactive materials. NNSA has installed similar equipment at over 230 sites around the world."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.nnsa.energy.gov/news/2271.htm>

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DOE WANTS A NEUTRON SENSOR TO LOWER INTO CONTAINER SHIPS

By Jack Goodwin

Government Security News

January 20, 2009

"The U.S. Department of Energy is looking for a company that can design, develop and assemble a dozen fast neutron detectors that could be lowered by rope into the cargo hold of seaborne container ships.

The sensor devices, which would attempt to detect neutron-emitting materials on board a vessel, would include a Bluetooth transceiver that could transfer its data to a Bluetooth-enabled laptop.

"This computer shall execute a software application, also designed by the subcontractor, which incorporates neutron drop sensor data and compares it to a calculation of a background neutron count rate as a function of date, air pressure, Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates, as well as vessel type and location of detector unit within the vessel (i.e., effective 'depth')," said the DOE's "sources sought" notice published Jan. 16."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1388.html>

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PLUTONIUM FOUND IN SAFE AT HANFORD IS HISTORIC

By Annette Cary

Tri-City Herald

January 24, 2009

"Nuclear archaeology has solved the mystery of a jug of plutonium that was found sealed inside a safe dug up as workers cleaned up an early Hanford burial ground.

Science showed the plutonium was historic: Researchers at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland traced its origins to the first batch of weapons-grade materials ever processed at Hanford.

It's also the second oldest known man-made plutonium 239, said Jon Schwantes, a PNNL senior research scientist who led the investigation. The oldest is held in the Smithsonian."

The full article can be found at: <http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/>

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