

# Foreword from the NEA

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Risk communication is a multidisciplinary, socially and technically complex and resource-intensive activity. Communicating risk is not a one-step task but a dynamic process that should evolve steadily as society and stakeholder expectations change.

The Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) has long been dedicated to addressing the complexities of risk communication in the context of nuclear activities. These activities encompass a variety of potential radiation exposure risks, with radiological concerns and the tools to address them sharing common ground in different scenarios. Member countries of the Nuclear Energy Agency have acknowledged the vital importance of engaging stakeholders effectively and inclusively in both policy decision-making and emergency management planning. Recent years have seen a heightened focus on constructive public discourse regarding nuclear risk, extending beyond radiological or nuclear emergencies to encompass daily operations.

In December 2022, the NEA hosted its inaugural Nuclear Risk Communication Training Course (RCTC) in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, targeting communication and outreach officers, technical staff, as well as inspectors from regulatory bodies, technical safety organisations and agencies involved in radioactive waste management. The course focused on enhancing daily risk communication, emphasising the importance of addressing uncertainty and striking the right balance between cultural sensitivity and messaging. The course's success underscored the need for an ongoing training event, focusing on the vital role of effective risk communication in the evolving landscape of decision making.

In September 2023, the NEA organised the “Stakeholder Involvement Workshop on Decision Making Optimisation” in Paris. The workshop’s primary goal was to enhance transparency and inclusiveness in the nuclear sector’s decision-making processes. Attendees represented a wide spectrum of sectors: government institutions, industry and professional associations, academic and research institutions, international organisations, and civil society and NGOs. The discussions emphasised the importance of involving the public, ensuring equitable power distribution, and establishing trust within a flexible framework. These insights are crucial for enhancing societal benefits and guiding future decision making.

Moreover, to meet the rising demand for better communication and stakeholder involvement, and in alignment with its commitment to improving transparency and inclusiveness in nuclear sector decision making, the NEA established the High-Level Group on Stakeholder Engagement, Trust, Transparency, and Social Sciences (HLG-SET) in March 2023. The formation of this group reflects the NEA’s overarching objective of prioritising stakeholder and public engagement to advance risk communication. HLG-SET will engage with political and social scientists, scholars in the field of humanities, non-governmental organisation representatives and practitioners of the nuclear sector as necessary.

Looking ahead, the NEA envisions that the sustained provision of this training course will significantly contribute to a better understanding of the complexities of risk communication. The course, featuring diverse lecturers and participants, will address current communication challenges, such as conspiracy theories and fake news in the misinformation landscape as well as risk perception and stakeholder engagement. It will remain adaptable to evolving needs, ensuring alignment with the requirements of NEA member countries and participants in the critical domain of risk communication. The NEA is very happy to partner with the United Arab Emirates' Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation in supporting this year's Nuclear Risk Communication Training Course in Abu Dhabi.

William D. Magwood, IV  
Director-General  
Nuclear Energy Agency

# Foreword from the FANR

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The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has embarked on a journey to build a safe and sustainable nuclear energy programme since 2009. It adopted a nuclear energy policy which is based on the principles of operational transparency, highest standards of safety and security; co-operation and sustainability. Such pillars constituted the roadmap of all the stakeholders: today, the UAE nuclear energy programme is at an advanced stage, with three nuclear reactors operational at Barakah Nuclear Power Plant and delivering 24/7 power to the UAE national grid.

The Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) is the nuclear regulator in the UAE. FANR is committed to upholding the highest standards of nuclear safety and security to protect the public and the environment from potential radiation risks. It is our belief that effective risk communication is essential to complement our mandate to achieve our goals.

Today, we live in an era in which we witness many aspects of disinformation and misinformation surrounding our daily lives. The nuclear sector is no exception. Despite the massive efforts put by stakeholders globally (from regulators, operators, partners, officials and others), unfortunately, there are still misconceptions and myths among people about nuclear energy and the application of radiation and its multifaceted benefits for human kind. Hence, risk communication plays a significant role to inform, educate and engage the stakeholders in a manner that is clear, accurate and transparent. It is our duty to build trust and understanding with the public so that they can make informed decisions about nuclear energy and radiation applications.

FANR adopts a proactive approach of engaging and keeping the public informed. We engage with members of the community through a variety of channels, including awareness campaigns, public outreach and social media. We also work with other stakeholders, such as government officials, industry experts and the media, to ensure that accurate information about nuclear risks is available to everyone. We embrace transparency by inviting the public to comment on our draft regulations, publishing our inspection reports among others. It is the timely engagement with the public that makes the difference.

We are delighted to host the NEA's Risk Communication Training Course in Abu Dhabi. The course is crucial for all nuclear stakeholders, be it regulators, operators or academia. I am delighted to learn of the number of countries participating in this important course, which indicate the importance of the topic and the dedication of stakeholders to debunk the myths around nuclear energy and radiation and to engage with the public. We believe that effective risk communication is essential to building public trust in nuclear energy. By engaging with the public and providing them with accurate information, we can help ensure that nuclear energy and radiation applications are used safely and responsibly.

Christer Viktorsson  
Director-General  
Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation

# General information

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## Objectives

The Risk Communication Training Course (RCTC) will focus on communicating risk on a daily basis. Its aim is to improve the effectiveness of risk communication in order to enhance public understanding. It will provide communication and technical professionals working in relevant public organisations (regulatory bodies, technical safety organisations, agencies for radioactive waste management, etc.) with the fundamentals of risk communication.

The objectives of the RCTC are:

- To provide practical tools and techniques to both communicators and technical staff in order for them to better communicate with the public about nuclear and radiological risks.
- To present, analyse and discuss the history and nuances of risk communication in the nuclear sector, and to gather the key lessons learnt from past events in nuclear history.
- To transfer the knowledge and experience to those with a communications or engagement role.
- To learn how to use plain language and terms that would help the public understand the risk of the nuclear and radiological sector.
- To ensure that participants will be able to design a clear risk communications plan for a specific issue in accordance with recommended best practices.
- To learn and understand how to identify target audiences to communicate risk proactively to different segments of the public.
- To provide participants with a critical view of different national communication strategies, best practices, and their evolution, to reach a better understanding of their commonalities and differences, and to try and establish a common framework that considers the differences in how various countries communicate, taking into account different cultural norms.
- To develop and strengthen an international network of personnel involved in risk communication, including communication specialists and technical staff.
- To evaluate the participants' understanding about the training course concepts through a quiz and a final project group work.

In order to avoid duplicating existing training, this course will only cover risk communication. The goal is to provide professionals with the fundamentals of risk communication.

## Time/venue

**Date:** 13-16 November 2023

**Duration:** 4 days

**Location:** Khalidiya Palace Rayhaan by Rotana Corniche St – Al Khubeirah – Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**Social event:** Visiting the Mosque and Networking Dinner at the Ritz Carlton Hotel Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

14 November 2023 – Tuesday, Day 2

Time: 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

**Gathering point:** Main entrance of the Conference Hotel – 5:00 PM

## Format

This training course will be a professional certification (no academic credits). A participation certificate will be delivered by the NEA to the participants following completion of the training, which consists of:

- Two virtual preparatory modules.
- Three days of in-person meetings, which will include lectures and interactive sessions (exercises, case studies).

## Target audience

The RCTC is intended for professionals working in nuclear regulatory organisations, technical safety organisations, radioactive waste management agencies and other related organisations, early or mid-career, who are responsible for communicating (or engaging) with the public and decision makers on nuclear and radiological risks and associated topics:

- Communication professionals (directors, managers, officers, communication advisors, etc.).
- Technical staff members involved in nuclear safety, nuclear security, environmental protection, waste management, radiation safety, radiological protection, safeguards or from related areas that have a role in the communications chain.

## Language

The RCTC will be held in English.

## Contact

The RCTC Team can be contacted at [rctc@oecd-nea.org](mailto:rctc@oecd-nea.org).

## E-learning

e-learning (preparatory work)	
30 mins	<b>E-1: Risk communication vs crisis communication</b>  Holly Harrington, Senior Level Advisor, Office of Public Affairs, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
30 mins	<b>E-2: Introduction to nuclear and radiological risks</b>  Yoshihito Takeda, Professor, Hokkaido University



Participants to the first Risk Communication Training Course, held in 2022 in Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

# Programme

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Day 1: **Monday 13 November 2023** – 09:00-17:00

<b>Opening: Welcome and introductory remarks</b>		
08:00	<b>Registration of participants</b>	Conference Secretariat
09:00	<b>Welcome address</b>	<a href="#">Adriana Scialdone García</a> Workshop Chair Communication Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council
09:05	<b>Welcome remarks by the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)</b>	<a href="#">William D. Magwood, IV</a> Director-General, Nuclear Energy Agency
09:10	<b>Welcome remarks from the host organisation Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR)</b>	<a href="#">Christer Viktorsson</a> Director-General, Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation
09:20	<b>Participants' introduction, recap of e-module video</b>	<a href="#">Adriana Scialdone García</a> Workshop Chair Communication Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council
09:50	<b>Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) ongoing activities</b>	<a href="#">Greg Lamarre</a> Head of the Division of Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety and Radiological Protection, Nuclear Energy Agency
10:00	Coffee break – group photo	

## Session 1: Why is risk communication important for nuclear organisations?

10:30	<b>1-1: Introductory presentation and scene setting</b>	William D. Magwood, IV Director-General, Nuclear Energy Agency
11:00	<b>1-2: Nuclear risk communication – The United Arab Emirates (UAE) case</b>	Salah Al Hashimi Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation
11:30	<b>1-3: Overview of risk communication objectives and challenges, and definition of its components</b>	Tanja Perko Senior researcher and Project Leader, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre
12:00	Lunch	
13:30	<b>1-4: Journalism, science journalism and news consumption</b>	Adriana Scialdone García Workshop Chair Communication Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council
14:10	<b>1-5: How to assess risk perceptions</b>	Tanja Perko Senior researcher and Project Leader, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre
14:50	<b>1-6: How to build trust</b>	Rhonda Walker-Sistie Director General of Strategic Communications, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
15:30	Coffee break	
16:00	<b>How to deal with uncertainty, and discussion of Session 1</b>	William D. Magwood, IV Director-General, Nuclear Energy Agency
17:00	<b>End of day 1</b>	



Day 2: **Tuesday 14 November 2023** – 09:00-17:00

<b>Session 2: The art of effective risk communication</b>		
09:00	<b>Overview of day 1</b>	<a href="#">Adriana Scialdone García</a> Workshop Chair Communication Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council
09:10	<b>2-1: Identifying your target audiences</b>	<a href="#">Rhonda Walker-Sistie</a> Director General of Strategic Communications, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
09:40	<b>2-2: Designing a risk communication strategy</b>	<a href="#">Salah Al Hashimi</a> Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation
10:20	Coffee break	
10:50	<b>Managing social risk of oil and gas activities in United Arab Emirates (UAE)</b>	<a href="#">Adnan Aqeel Madhi</a> Manager, Environment and Occupational Health (OH) Department at Abu Dhabi National Oil Company
11:30	<b>2-3: The importance of plain language</b>	<a href="#">Adriana Scialdone García</a> Workshop Chair Communication Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council
12:00	Lunch	
13:30	<b>2-4: Implementing a risk communication plan</b>	<a href="#">Salah Al Hashimi</a> Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation
14:10	<b>2-5: Evaluating your strategy and plan</b>	<a href="#">Salah Al Hashimi</a>
14:50	Coffee break	

## Session 2: The art of effective risk communication (cont'd)

15:20	<b>2-6: Risk perception and stakeholder engagement</b>	<b>Noboru Takamura</b> Professor in the Department of Global Health, Medicine and Welfare, Atomic Bomb Disease Institute of Nagasaki University
16:00	<b>2-7: Group discussion based on Fukushima case study</b>	<b>Noboru Takamura</b> <b>Aleshia Duncan</b> Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Nuclear Energy Policy and Cooperation at the US Department of Energy
17:00	<b>End of day 2</b>	

## Social Tour: Visiting the Mosque and networking dinner

17:00~	<b>Gathering point:</b> Main entrance of the conference hotel
18:00	<b>Visiting Sheikh Zayed Mosque</b> <b>Note:</b> <i>please keep in mind the dress code</i>
19:30	<b>Dinner at Ritz Carlton Abu Dhabi</b>



Day 3: **Wednesday 15 November 2023** – 9:00-17:00

<b>Session 3: The techniques, practical implementation and specific challenges</b>		
9:00	<b>Overview of day 2</b>	<a href="#">Adriana Scialdone García</a> Workshop Chair Communication Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council
09:10	<b>3-1: Techniques, tools and channels in nuclear and radiological risk communication</b>	<a href="#">Salah Al Hashimi</a> Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation
09:40	<b>3-2: What journalists need from a risk communicator</b>	<a href="#">Adriana Scialdone García</a> Workshop Chair Communication Advisor, Spanish Nuclear Safety Council
10:20	Coffee break	
10:50	<b>3-3: Countering rumours, conspiracy theories and fake news in the misinformation landscape</b>	<a href="#">Miriam Vachová</a> Director of Chancellery, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic
11:30	<b>3-4: How to handle public meetings in an effective manner</b>	<a href="#">Rhonda Walker-Sistie</a> Director General of Strategic Communications, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
12:10	Lunch	

**Session 3: The techniques, practical implementation and specific challenges** *(cont'd)*

13:30	<b>3-5: Working together with technical staff, management and others within the organisation</b>	<a href="#">Aleshia Duncan</a> Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Nuclear Energy Policy and Cooperation at the US Department of Energy
14:10	<b>3-6: Group discussion based on case study</b>	<a href="#">Salah Al Hashimi</a> Director of Government Communication, UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation
14:50	Coffee break	
15:20	<b>3-7: Group discussion on day 3 and multiple topics (AI, etc.)</b>	<a href="#">Tanja Perko</a> Senior researcher and Project Leader, Belgian Nuclear Research Centre
16:50	<b>3-8: Preparation for the final project</b>	<a href="#">Miriam Vachová</a> Director of Chancellery, Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic
17:00	<b>End of day 3</b>	



Day 4: **Thursday 16 November 2023** – 09:00-14:30

09:00	<b>Final project preparation</b>	Group work
10:15	Coffee break	
10:45-12:15	<b>Final project presentation and discussion</b> 15 minutes presentation +QA + discussion for each of the seven groups	All groups
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	<b>Wrap-up session</b>	All lecturers
14:15	Closing	<a href="#">William D. Magwood, IV</a> Director-General, Nuclear Energy Agency FANR (TBC)
	<b>End of 2<sup>nd</sup> RCTC</b>	

## Speaker biographies

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### *William D. Magwood, IV*

Mr Magwood took up his duties as Director-General of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) on 1 September 2014. He has extensive experience in both the regulatory and developmental aspects of nuclear energy, including at the international level.

From 2010 to 2014, he served as one of the five Commissioners appointed by the US President and confirmed by the US Senate to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). While a commissioner, he advocated the importance of nuclear regulatory independence and the necessity of maintaining strong, credible and technically sound nuclear regulation in the United States and all countries that use nuclear power.

Prior to his appointment at the NRC, from 2005 to 2010 he provided independent strategic and policy advice to US and international clients on energy, environment, education, and technology policy issues. From 1998 to 2005, Mr Magwood was Director of the US Government's civilian nuclear energy programme at the US Department of Energy (DOE). During his tenure, he established the Idaho National Laboratory; created activities that reversed the decline of US nuclear technology education; and launched important initiatives such as the Generation IV International Forum (GIF) and US "Nuclear Power 2010," which helped restart nuclear plant construction in the United States.

He was also actively involved in the work of the NEA, serving as a Steering Committee Bureau member from 1999 to 2003, and as Chairman of the Steering Committee from 2004 to 2005.

Prior to his experience at the DOE, Mr Magwood managed electric utility research and nuclear policy programmes at the Edison Electric Institute in Washington, DC, and was a scientist at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Mr Magwood, a US national, holds Bachelor degrees in Physics and English from Carnegie Mellon University and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pittsburgh.



### ***Christer Viktorsson***

Mr Christer Viktorsson has been the Director-General of FANR since 1 June 2015. He is a nuclear physicist and has more than 35 years of experience in nuclear regulation and safety. He has worked nationally and internationally in the fields of nuclear safety, nuclear emergency preparedness, nuclear waste management, radiation protection, and security and safeguards.

Furthermore, Mr Viktorsson has extensive experience in nuclear policies and in the preparation and application of national regulations, international standards and peer reviews. He has given numerous lectures and presentations at a variety of fora and taken part in bilateral and international negotiations in the area of nuclear co-operation. Mr Viktorsson also has a degree in economics and is experienced in the management and administration of state bodies.

He graduated from Abo Academy University in Finland and spent his first three years after graduation in nuclear research at the university and in radioisotope production for medical purposes.

In 1995, he became the Deputy Director General of the Swedish Nuclear Safety Authority, where he spent 10 years regulating the nuclear industry.

He started his international carrier in 1987 when he joined the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency in Paris for six years to set up an enhanced co-operation programme in occupational radiation protection and emergency preparedness for nuclear accidents. From 2005 to the end of 2008 he worked at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, where he was in charge of policy matters in the Department for Nuclear Safety and Security.



### ***Adriana Scialdone García***

Adriana Scialdone García is a Communications Advisor who works for the Spanish Nuclear Safety Council in Madrid. She is part of the Chairman's Cabinet and her main responsibilities include all forms of incoming and outgoing communications on nuclear and radiological matters. She heads the Council's social media efforts and oversees its website, and updates both with press releases, visual content and event-planning.

She is also responsible for drafting press releases and overseeing relationships with stakeholders and journalists. Ms Scialdone forms part of the Regulator's emergency network and helps streamline communications from the emergency press room throughout real or simulated nuclear emergencies.

Previously, Ms Scialdone worked as a writer and a television reporter for Spanish national television (RTVE), as well as Cuatro TV and CNN+.

She is an active member of the NEA's Committee on Nuclear Regulatory Activities Expert Group on Public Communications where she co-leads the Risk Communication Training Course together with Diane Screnci. She was also a member for six years of the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) Working Group to improve transparency in regulatory organisations.





### ***Salah Al Hashimi***

Salah Al Hashimi is the Director of Government Communication at the UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) with more than 20 years' experience in marketing and communications. He is responsible for leading the corporate communication function and FANR's international co-operation. Mr Al Hashimi was also the former Chief Happiness and Wellbeing Officer at FANR, responsible for developing and implementing the UAE National Happiness and Positivity Program at the entity.

Prior to joining FANR, Mr Al Hashimi held multiple leading roles across different industries, ranging from banking to investment, property development and government. He was a senior corporate communications manager at Majid Al Futtaim Holding and a director of Government Communication at the Community Development Authority in Dubai and AVP Head of Corporate Communication at Dubai Islamic Bank. Mr Al Hashimi holds a Masters' degree in marketing communications from Middlesex University and a higher diploma in communication and mass media from Glasgow Caledonian University in the United Kingdom.

Mr Al Hashimi is a certified trainer from the UAE Government Leaders Program under the Prime Minister's Office and a member of the "Strategic Partnership and Government Development" initiative, which aims to transfer the knowledge and the UAE Government's best practices to international partners such as Egypt, Jordan and other countries. In 2020, Mr Al Hashimi became a member of the Nuclear Energy Agency Working Group for Public Communication, working on multiple initiatives to develop international communication standards across the nuclear energy sector.

He is a graduate of the first edition of the Chief Happiness and Wellbeing Government Program in 2017 and also the founder of the "Happiness Without Borders" volunteering initiative, which provides free consultancy services and training to organisations that are seeking to create a happy and strong working environment and culture.



### ***Aleshia Duncan***

Aleshia Duncan serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Nuclear Energy Policy and Cooperation in the Office of Nuclear Energy at the United States Department of Energy. In this capacity, she leads the international civil nuclear engagement and creates opportunities for the commercial export of US nuclear reactor technology.

Ms Duncan has held two overseas posts. Most recently she spent three years in France at the Nuclear Energy Agency where she served as the Director-General's Senior Advisor for Multilateral Co-ordination and Secretary to the Steering Committee.

Ms Duncan was also posted at the US Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, for three years and served as the Director for Nuclear Operations. She managed all civil nuclear co-operation with the Government of Japan before, during and after its 2011 nuclear accident and was awarded the Secretary's Honor Award for her efforts in supporting the co-ordination of the United States crisis response to the accident at Fukushima Daiichi.

Ms Duncan also has an extensive background in human resources in the areas of employee and labour relations, workforce diversity and contract negotiation.

Ms Duncan holds a Bachelor of Arts in international relations from Pennsylvania State University and a Master of Arts from Trinity University in Washington, DC.



### ***Holly Harrington***

Holly Harrington is a Senior Level Advisor in the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Public Affairs, in Rockville, Maryland. She provides strategic advice to agency leadership, especially related to crisis response and social media.

Ms Harrington joined the NRC in 2004 and has also served as speechwriter to the Chairman, as a Public Affairs Officer and as Special Assistant to the Office Director. In 2012, she received the NRC's Meritorious Service Award, in part for her response efforts during the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident.

Previously, Ms Harrington was a public affairs officer at the Federal Emergency Management Agency and held public affairs positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs' Central Office and two medical centres. She was an adjunct professor at Trinity College (Washington, DC) for 15 years, teaching a variety of communication courses, including media ethics, public speaking, speech writing and digital communications. She began her career as a print journalist in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Ms Harrington holds a Bachelor's degree in journalism (reporting and editing) and a Master's degree in mass communications, both from San Jose State University.



### **Greg Lamarre**

Greg Lamarre has been serving as Head of Division of Radiological Protection and Human Aspects of Nuclear Safety at the Nuclear Energy Agency in Paris since March 2021. In this capacity, he is responsible for the implementation of the Division's mandate as it relates to advancing nuclear safety across the NEA member countries, specifically in the areas of radiological protection and the human aspects of nuclear safety.

Mr Lamarre has over 30 years of experience as a systems engineer and leader in government, in an international organisation and previously in the military. He joined the NEA from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) in Ottawa where he was most recently the Director General, Safety Management Directorate. In this role, he was responsible for leading a number of divisions responsible for providing the organisation with world-class technical expertise in the areas of safety management. He held progressively more senior roles at the CNSC in the areas of licensing and compliance of research facilities, safety management and emergency preparedness, security and safeguards. Mr Lamarre also previously worked at the NEA for a three-year period as deputy head of the nuclear safety division. Prior to commencing his career in the nuclear industry, Greg served as a marine systems engineering officer in the Royal Canadian Navy.

A Canadian national, Mr Lamarre holds undergraduate (chemical engineering) and graduate degrees (nuclear engineering) from the Royal Military College in Kingston Ontario and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Ottawa. He is a licensed professional engineer in his home province of Ontario.



### **Adnan Aqeel Madhi**

With over 15 years' experience, Adnan Aqeel Madhi is involved in the field of Health, Safety & Environment (HSE). He holds a Bachelor's degree in environmental engineering and a Master's degree in engineering management. Mr Aqeel Madhi is known for his passion in establishing and improving systems and working in different fields, mainly the environment, sustainability, occupational health, crisis management and business continuity, HSE contractor management and other areas. This includes overseeing the integration of new mandates like social risk management across the organisation, working closely with relevant functions such as communications and government relations to ensure all the company activities' risks and potential impacts to stakeholders (e.g. local communities) are assessed and communicated to the stakeholders, and the appropriate mitigation measures put in place.



### **Tanja Perko**

Dr Tanja Perko is a senior researcher, scientific project leader and lecturer at the Belgian Nuclear Research Centre (SCK CEN) and at the University of Antwerp in Belgium. She holds a PhD in social sciences, which she obtained with a thesis on *“Modelling Risk Perception and Risk Communication in Nuclear Emergency Management: An Interdisciplinary Approach”* (University of Antwerp, Belgium). She also holds a Master’s degree in political studies, and a Bachelor’s in journalism from the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

She was a journalist at a daily news programme and for evening news at the National TV station in Slovenia and was head of the public relations department at the Ministry of Defense. Since obtaining her PhD in risk communication in 2012 in Belgium, she has published more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific papers and 6 peer-reviewed book chapters. She works in inter-, multi- and trans-disciplinary teams. She applies quantitative research methods (public opinion surveys, media content analysis), qualitative methods (interviews, non-participatory observational studies, focus groups, consensus workshops, media framing analysis and discourse analysis) and mixed methods.

She combines social science and humanities (SSH) research with R&D of ionising radiation (IR) technologies and makes the societal aspects more visible to the technical and policy stakeholders related to IR technologies in Europe by boosting European SSH research, stimulating multidisciplinary approaches and supporting the integration of research, innovation and society in the field of IR. She is one of the founders and the vice-president of SHARE (European platform for social sciences and humanities in ionising radiation research) and a management board member of the Belgian radiation protection society. She is also a project or task leader for different EU projects in the field of risk and health communication related to ionising radiation.



### ***Rhonda Walker-Sistie***

Rhonda Walker-Sistie has been the Director General for Strategic Communications at the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) since September 2017. Under her leadership, the Directorate is responsible for communication strategy, advice and services in support of the CNSC's nuclear safety mandate, including effective emergency communications, regulatory and digital communications, as well as media relations.

Prior to this, she was the A/Director General of Communications for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), including the Canadian Coast Guard, from 2015 to 2017. During this time, she successfully led the Department's crisis communications team through a number of serious incidents.

Ms Walker-Sistie has worked in the field of government communications since 2010. Before her career in the public service, she held a number of positions on Parliament Hill culminating her time there as Chief of Staff to the Minister of State (Sport, responsible for the 2010 Olympics).

Ms Walker-Sistie holds a Doctorate in communication from Carleton University's School of Journalism and Communication.



### ***Noboru Takamura***

Noboru Takamura has been a full Professor in the Department of Global Health, Medicine and Welfare at the Atomic Bomb Disease Institute of Nagasaki University since 2008. He graduated from Nagasaki University School of Medicine in 1993, and obtained a PhD there in 1997. As an expert in radiation medical sciences, he has been working in relation to the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant since the mid-1990s to support the affected residents in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. He worked at the World Health Organization from 1999 to 2000 and in 2010 he was involved in the co-ordination of the project for the establishment of an early diagnosis system for radiation-induced thyroid cancer around Chernobyl.

Just after the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in March 2011, he was appointed as an advisor for Fukushima Prefecture on radiation health risk management, and implemented crisis communication on radiation exposure and its associated health effects to residents of Fukushima. In addition, he has contributed to the recovery of affected communities through the evaluation of internal and external exposure doses of residents as well as through risk communication with them. He has contributed to the establishment of satellite offices of Nagasaki University in Kawauchi village, and the towns of Tomioka, Ohkuma, and Futaba in Fukushima Prefecture.

In April 2020, he was further appointed as the first director of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Nuclear Disaster Memorial Museum in the town of Futaba in Fukushima Prefecture, which was established to share the lessons learnt from the disaster.



### ***Yoshihito Takeda***

Yoshihito Takeda is a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University. His specialty is risk assessment and risk communication on chemical substances. He conducts research, education and practice in risk communication and community dialogue with residents of businesses.

After graduating from the Faculty of Integrated Arts and Sciences, Hiroshima University, he attended the Graduate School of Science and Engineering at the University of Tsukuba and received a doctorate at the Graduate School of Urban Sciences, Tokyo Metropolitan University

He acquired work experience in the Defense Agency Maritime Self-Defense Force, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, and at the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE). Since 2013 he has also served as a visiting associate professor at the Graduate School of Environment and Information Studies, Yokohama National University. Mr Takeda has been working at the Hokkaido University Graduate School of Engineering since 2019.



### ***Miriam Vachová***

After completing her Master's degree at the Faculty of Education of the Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovak Republic (teacher's training with specialisation in physics and technical education), Miriam Vachová worked almost continuously in various positions at the Nuclear Regulatory Authority of the Slovak Republic (ÚJD SR). She started in 1997 as a safety analyst in the Division of Safety Analysis and Technical Support, since 2009 she worked in the Division of International Relations and European Affairs as the senior state adviser for the Authority's bilateral relations agenda and the Slovak Republic's co-operation with the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). Since 2018 she has been appointed as the Director of Chancellery. In this position, she is in addition to other competencies responsible for internal and external communication of ÚJD SR. Moreover, she is an active member of the NEA CNRA Expert Group on Public Communication of Nuclear Regulatory Organisations as well as the ENSREG's Working Group of Improving the Transparency Arrangements.

## Day 2: **Social tour (14 November 2023)**

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### **Visiting Sheikh Zayed Mosque**



Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2023

Time: 6:00-7:00 PM

Gathering point: Main entrance- 5:00 PM

Contact name: Maryam Al Ali

Contact phone number: +971 50 9599309

Note: Dress code and attire for visit of the Sheikh Zayed Mosque

**Modest clothing:** Both men and women should wear clothing that covers their shoulders and knees. Avoid any attire that is revealing or excessively tight. For women, the hair should be covered.

For more information please visit: [www.szgmc.gov.ae/en/visit-mosque-visitors](http://www.szgmc.gov.ae/en/visit-mosque-visitors)

### **Dinner at the Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi**



Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2023

Time: 7:30-9:30 PM

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