Strengthening of organizational infrastructure for meeting IAEA nuclear safeguards obligations: Bangladesh perspective

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Safeguards are arrangements to account for and control the use of nuclear materials. This verification is a key element in the international system which ensures that uranium in particular is used only for peaceful purposes. The only nuclear reactor in Bangladesh achieved critically on September 14, 1986. Reactor Operation and Maintenance Unit routinely carries out certain international obligations which need to undertake as signatory of different treaties, agreements and protocols in the international safeguards regime. Pursuant to the relevant articles of these agreements/protocols, the reactor and associated facilities of Bangladesh (Facility code: BDA- and BDZ-) are physically inspected by the designated IAEA safeguards inspectors. The Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) has recently created a new division called “Nuclear Safeguards and Security Division” for enhancing the safeguards activities as per international obligations. This division plays a leading role in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the BAEC’s nuclear safeguards and nuclear security activities. This division is actively working with USDOE, IAEA and EU to enhance the nuclear safeguards and security activities in the following areas:

- Analysis of nuclear safeguards related reports of 3 MW TRIGA Mark-II research reactor;
- Upgrading of physical protection system of 3 MW TRIGA Mark-II research reactor, gamma irradiation facilities, central radioactive storage and processing facility and different radiation oncology facilities of Bangladesh under GTRI programme;
- Supervision for installation of radiation monitoring system of the Chittagong port under USDOE Megaports Initiative Programmes for detection of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials;
- Development of laboratory capabilities for analysis of nuclear safeguards related samples;
- Planning for development of organizational infrastructure to carry out safeguards related activities under IAEA different treaties/protocols; and
- Development of legislative system and national strategy for nuclear safeguards activities.

A programme has been undertaken to develop the organizational infrastructure to carry out nuclear safeguards related activities in Bangladesh. The objective of this paper is to describe the main activities that are being carried out for meeting IAEA nuclear safeguards obligations.