

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Security
2017 Exercise on the Daya Bay Contingency Plan

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the arrangements of an inter-departmental Exercise on the Daya Bay Contingency Plan (DBCP), scheduled to be held on 20-21 December 2017.

Background

2. First promulgated in 1994, the DBCP sets out the detailed measures to be adopted by the Government in dealing with emergencies at a nuclear power station at Daya Bay or elsewhere. In addition to internal drills conducted by relevant departments from time to time, large-scale interdepartmental exercises on the Plan are organised every three to five years to test the response capabilities of the Government as well as the effectiveness of the DBCP. The last Exercise, codenamed “CHECKERBOARD” (“棋盤”), was held in April 2012. Over 30 bureaux and departments took part in a series of command post drills and field operations in a two-day event. The next such exercise, codenamed “CHECKERBOARD II” (“棋盤二”), is scheduled to be held on 20-21 December 2017.

Objectives

3. The objectives of Exercise CHECKERBOARD II are:
- (a) to test and enhance the Government’s capabilities in dealing with serious nuclear accidents that may affect Hong Kong;
 - (b) to test the effectiveness of the Daya Bay Contingency Plan;
 - (c) to strengthen Hong Kong's relevant nuclear emergency measures and implementation capability, making reference

to the latest international standards and best practices;

- (d) to demonstrate to, and reassure the public of the Government's efficiency, judgement and professional knowledge in tackling nuclear emergencies; and
- (e) to promote public awareness of nuclear emergency preparedness and response.

General Exercise Arrangement

4. Exercise CHECKERBOARD II will adopt a holistic approach in testing the Government's competence in dealing with a hypothetical, serious radiological incident occurring at the Guangdong Daya Bay Nuclear Power Station, through command post drills and field deployments. The exercise will focus on the following aspects of the Plan –

- (a) Incident notification and information exchange;
- (b) Consequence monitoring and assessment;
- (c) Activation of the Government response mechanism;
- (d) Plume countermeasures;
- (e) Ingestion countermeasures;
- (f) Assistance to the public; and
- (g) Dissemination of information to the public.

5. As in past exercises, around 30 bureaux, departments and organisations involved in the DBCP will participate in CHECKERBOARD II. These players will act and interact in response to the simulated nuclear accident, demonstrating their judgement, efficiency and knowledge in responding to the emergency. Specific ground operations will be arranged to test the capabilities of and coordination among frontline departments.

Exercise Consultancy

6. To enhance the professionalism of the Exercise and to raise the Government's response capabilities to a level on par with the prevailing international standards and best practice, the Government has engaged the Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire (IRSN) to be the consultant to the Exercise. IRSN is France's public expert organisation in nuclear and radiological risks and one of the world's leading organisations in nuclear emergency response and radiation protection. It has a wealth of experience in collaborating with major international organisations, regulatory bodies, governments and private enterprises in areas relating to nuclear or radiological emergency preparedness and response, and in the design, development and conduct of emergency exercises. For Exercise CHECKERBOARD II, IRSN is responsible for designing the main technical scenario, conducting technical training, workshops and warm-up exercises for bureaux and departments, assisting in evaluating the Exercise, and providing advice on related matters.

Observers

7. We have invited a number of international, Mainland and local government representatives and experts to observe the Exercise and make recommendations. We will also invite members of the Panel on Security of the Legislative Council to attend as observers.

Post-exercise work

8. We will make a report on the Exercise to the Panel on Security at its meeting in January 2018. After the Exercise, we will also assess its outcome and consider the comments and recommendations received from participants and observers, to identify areas for improvement and make refinements to the DBCP where necessary.

Security Bureau
December 2017