



ID: P5.3-264

Type: E-poster

Public Awareness on the Role and Importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) and the RN52 Radionuclide Monitoring Station in the Philippines

The CTBT, an international agreement aimed at prohibiting all nuclear explosions, was signed by the Philippines on September 24, 1996, and subsequently ratified on February 23, 2001. In alignment with its commitments under the CTBT framework, the Philippines operates the radionuclide monitoring station RN52, situated in Tanay, Rizal. Managed by the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, it is designed to detect radioactive particulates in the atmosphere, which serve as indicators of potential nuclear detonation events. The Station has been integral to various civil and scientific endeavors, particularly in emergency preparedness and response. It has contributed to the assessment of the radiological impact following the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Station incident in 2011 and has played a crucial role in the surveillance of nuclear tests conducted by other countries. Despite its significant operational history, public awareness regarding the CTBTO Station remains limited within the Philippines. Relevance of the RN52 Station is accentuated in light of recent developments in the nation's nuclear energy initiatives and the escalating risks associated with nuclear armament in the Asia-Pacific region. This presentation aims to elucidate various initiatives undertaken in recent years to promote the CTBT Station, alongside an analysis of feedback gathered from these outreach efforts.

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Session Classification: P5.3 Outreach

Track Classification: Theme 5. CTBT Science and Technology in the Global Context: T5.3 Outreach