



Margarita Kalinina-Pohl

(She/Her)
USA

Margarita Kalinina-Pohl is the Director of the CBRN Security Program at the James Martin Center (CNS) for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (Monterey, California). During her 26-year career at CNS, Ms. Kalinina-Pohl held various management and research positions at CNS, including managing the CNS regional office in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Margarita's current research interests include nuclear and radiological security. She is also engaged in several nonproliferation education and capacity building projects and initiatives aimed at promoting and empowering women in the nuclear field.

She authored and co-authored articles and reports on nuclear and radiological security, problems related to uranium tailings in Central Asia, and the Soviet nuclear legacy.

She can provide mentorship in English.

MENTORSHIP TOPICS

Topic 1. Radiological security

Each country has radioactive sources which are used in medicine, industry, research, and other applications. Every year, large amounts of radioactive sources go missing worldwide. A number of commonly used isotopes in radioactive source, including Co-60, Cs-137, Am-Ir-192, Am-241 are of security concern and can be used in radiological dispersal devices (RDD). Of particular concern are so-called "orphan" sources and other material out of regulatory control. IAEA provides international guidance to member states based on the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. The radiological security field encompasses a wider range of activities aimed at 1) protecting radioactive sources; 2) safely removing and disposing of

disused radioactive sources; 3) tracking down orphan radioactive sources and MORC (material out of regulatory control), and 4) reducing global reliance on high activity radioactive sources by promoting alternative technologies, and other activities.

Duration: 90 minutes

Topic 2. Government-NGO partnerships in enhancing nuclear security

When it comes to the involvement of NGOs in the field of nuclear security, a lot of progress has been achieved since 2014. Both the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in The Hague and the last NSS in Washington, DC, in 2016, included notable side events called Nuclear Knowledge Summits which brought together experts from academic and research institutions and other NGOs from all over the world. The purpose of these events, as defined by the World Institute of Nuclear Security (WINS), was to “create a broad platform of experts and NGO support internationally in order to promote nuclear security and to support the NSS process.” Although names of these side-event summits did not bear the word “NGO”, they were commonly referred to as “NGO summits.” Adding the meetings of experts and NGOs communities to the NSS 2014 and 2016 agendas was a significant breakthrough in building NGO-government partnerships and bridges in the field of nuclear and radiological security. It increased the visibility and role of the non-governmental sector in strengthening nuclear security by complementing existing national and international efforts. Discussion will include concrete examples of partnerships in radiological security between the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and governmental bodies of several IAEA member states.

Duration: 60 minutes

Topic 3. Training and other professional development opportunities

There is a great number of nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear security training and professional development programs offered to professionals worldwide. They range from one-week intensive courses to year-long residency opportunities. This topic summarizes key programs offered by CNS and other leading think tanks in the US and other countries, as well as by international organizations, such as IAEA, and others.

Duration: 60 minutes