

SECURITY CULTURE AT MEDICAL FACILITIES IN MALAYSIA: **THE EFFORTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY**

An effective self-assessment is a great tool to measure the strengths and flaws of security culture in an organization. A strong security culture in the organization can identify the obstacles and incentives for enhancement of security performance. This is considered as one of the main approaches in reducing the threats, especially coming from the insider. Recognized as the pioneer country to introduce the security culture self-assessment to the medical facilities, Malaysia has taken some initiatives as the future endeavors in enhancing and sustaining the achievement.

As the first step towards the sustainability of the culture, a survey will be conducted by the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) by the end of this year, December 2021 at both pioneer medical facilities which is Hospital Ampang and National Blood Center to evaluate the current level of the culture. The main objective of this survey is to monitor the performance for each facility during these 5 years, starting from 2016. Based on the findings from the survey, important information can be assessed such as the effectiveness of the security culture programme conducted, commitment level from top management and the staff also other needs including fund and technical support. The analysis of the survey is estimated to be finalized by the end of January 2021.

To enhance the security culture programme in Malaysia, MOH has planned the second cycle to introduce and promote the programme to the other Category 1 medical facilities including from the private sector. The implementation of the programme is based on the findings from the pioneer facilities and also the latest IAEA Nuclear Security Series (NSS) publications which are NSS-28T and NSS-38T. The findings will be interesting as we can monitor the differences and make a comparison between the government and private sector in a few aspects - human resource, effectiveness of the programme, awareness, commitment and financial factors

With great support from the IAEA, MOH is really thankful to be granted an expert mission which will be held this November 2021 that will focus not only for conducting self-assessment programme, but on the whole enhancement process especially after the Self-Assessment. The main objectives for this mission are introduction to the latest IAEA NSS publications related to nuclear security culture; support for the enhancement and sustainability of the nuclear security culture at the pilot medical facilities; and plan and introduce the second cycle for the nuclear security culture self-assessment at medical facilities.

We are really looking forward to this mission as it will be the main inspiration for the MOH. Currently, we are developing and drafting the *Guidance Booklet on Security Culture Self-Assessment Survey Questions for Medical Facilities in Malaysia* that can be used as a main reference by the facilities in conducting a security culture self-assessment programme in near future. Towards the implementation of self-regulation among our licensee and operator, this is also an opportunity to develop a checklist or reference document in conducting performance audits or periodical reviews.

Lastly, to establish a culture, this is a time-consuming journey and a great commitment from all sides is a must. However, to sustain the culture is even more challenging and double efforts are needed. All the strategies and ideas that had been planned totally cannot be accomplished without the support from the stakeholders and also related agencies, internally and externally. Way forward, Malaysia is not only known to become the country that actively promotes security culture, but also become the model country and center of excellence in establishing the security culture at medical facilities.