

GLOBAL FORUM TO PREVENT RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR TERRORISM (GLOBAL FTPRNT)

Zalina Laili

Waste And Environment Technology Division, Nuklear Malaysia, Bangi

The Global Forum to Prevent Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism (Global FTPRNT) was held in Bucharest, Romania, from 13 to 15 November 2024. It brought together over 200 participants from 63 countries and six international organisations, including Malaysia. Organised by Romania and the United States, the forum served as a platform to highlight the importance of international cooperation in addressing the growing threats of radiological and nuclear (R/N) terrorism.

The forum featured 15 plenary and breakout sessions, covering critical topics such as International Legal Frameworks, Prevention and Preparedness, Detection, Nuclear Forensics, Response and Mitigation, International Cooperation, New and Emerging Technologies, and Women and Youth Engagement in R/N Workforce Development. Participants engaged in detailed threat briefings, offering valuable perspectives on current and emerging R/N risks. A keynote address on "R/N Security During Armed Conflict," with a particular focus on Ukraine, set the tone for the discussions



Group Photo (left) and Dr. Ms. Zalina Laili as Malaysia representative (right) at the Global FTPRNT in Bucharest, Romania

Throughout the forum, expert presentations, interactive panel sessions, and scenario-based discussions encouraged collaboration and knowledge-sharing. Issues raised included the commitment to enhancing international cooperation and adhering to international norms in addressing R/N terrorism. Notably, the forum recognised gaps in combating R/N terrorism, especially after the suspension of activities by the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. This led to the creation of the Global FTPRNT to fill the gap and ensure

continuity.

The forum highlighted the risks associated with R/N materials falling into the wrong hands and stressed the need for international measures to prevent their malicious use. The security of emerging nuclear technologies, such as small modular reactors, was also emphasised.



Participants engaged in 15 plenary and breakout sessions on key topics like Nuclear Forensics, Legal Frameworks, and Emerging Technologies in R/N security

Participants discussed the importance of adhering to nuclear safety principles, including prevention, detection, and prosecution of R/N terrorism, as well as compliance with international frameworks like the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM), and UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1540. International cooperation was urged to prevent the illegal acquisition and use of R/N materials, safeguard R/N facilities, and respond effectively to related incidents. The need to strengthen global institutions and integrate collective capabilities was emphasized, with a focus on non-legally binding networks for information and expertise sharing. Additionally, there were appeals for global participation to address the threat of R/N terrorism and create a safer, more secure world through collective action.

The forum provided a space to foster vital dialogues on coordination, collaboration, and the investments needed to strengthen international capacities and capabilities in responding to R/N terrorism threats. A key outcome was the joint statement introduced by the United States and Romania, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening global R/N security through international cooperation, upholding international norms, and supporting the robust implementation of legal frameworks. Participating nations were invited to endorse this statement, symbolising unified dedication to addressing these global challenges.



Exploring Bucharest, Romania, during the Global FTPrNT.

Overall, the forum successfully raised global awareness of the threat of R/N terrorism and stressed the importance of international cooperation for prevention and response. Key discussions on international frameworks, nuclear forensics, and emergency response highlighted effective approaches for national implementation. The participation of various international agencies emphasized the need for multi-disciplinary collaboration in addressing R/N threats. The focus on emerging technologies, such as small modular reactors (SMRs) and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), showcased the role of innovation in strengthening nuclear security. Additionally, the forum stressed the significance of nuclear forensics and the need for international cooperation, particularly with organizations like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Technical Working Group (ITWG), and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), to enhance nuclear forensics capabilities and provide technical assistance.



A scenic view of Bucharest, where the city's architectural beauty is complemented by the rich colours of autumn