### Nuclear Governance in Asia-Pacific

*Singapore, 8-10 March 2017  
National University of Singapore (NUS)  
Co-hosted by The University of Melbourne and the Energy Studies Institute at NUS  
Sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York*

With funding provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY), the University of Melbourne (UoM) – in partnership with the Energy Studies Institute at the National University of Singapore (NUS) – hosted a day-long workshop entitled *Nuclear Governance in Asia-Pacific* on 9 March, 2017. The workshop was held in Singapore, on the National University campus.

While considering the planning of the workshop, the organisers wanted to ensure that participants represented regional diversity, ensured a proportionate gender balance, and brought unique professional perspectives to the issue of nuclear governance. The organisers went to great lengths to develop and refine a list of potential guests that met these criteria. After sending out invitations to participants in December 2016, the guest list was finalised in late January 2017. Ultimately, the workshop had 19 participants from 6 countries (Australia, China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA), representing a wide variety of organisations and sectors.

As proposed to CCNY, the structure of the workshop itself aimed to foster discussion and debate, and avoid the staid process of having presentations followed by a limited Q&A session. To facilitate this engaging format, UoM circulated a paper, survey and a list of questions relevant to the session’s themes prior to the meeting. This ensured that all participants had an understanding of the topics, and had sufficient time to consider the themes of the sessions.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss and determine the appetite in the Asia-Pacific region for nuclear governance structures, and to determine the capacity for implementing those commitments. Sessions focused on the current state of nuclear governance, the barriers to strengthened governance in the region (strategic, political, economic, cultural), and what might be done to remove those barriers. Additionally, the organisers felt it would be helpful to include the perspectives of professionals from outside the traditional nuclear field. Subsequently, the inclusion of “side-bar” type discussions – quick, 10 minute talks on a relevant but non-traditional topic – were built into the agenda. The side-bars focused on other Asia-Pacific governance regimes (namely how pollution from forest fires is managed and the aviation industry), and negotiation cultures in the Asia Pacific. The unique structure of the agenda worked very well, with each session provoking a lively discussion and exchange.

There were several interesting conclusions to the workshop. These included that global governance incentives should be focused on ASEAN, that cultural factors should be considered as a part of a nuanced negotiation strategy and that it is crucial to identify key regional leaders who can motivate and encourage other state’s participation. A full report of workshop outcomes will be submitted to CCNY.