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The INSEN Experience, by INSEN Chairs

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The INSEN Experience, by INSEN Chairs

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Tariq Majeed, Jason Timothy Harris, Oum Keltoum Hakam, James Larkin, Şebnem Udum, and Johannes H. Sterba

The INSEN Experience, by INSEN Chairs

As a feature of this issue, we asked INSEN chairs to share their thoughts about what the organization has meant to them as they led this network of colleagues in the mission of improving nuclear security education and training at institutions and organizations around the world.

Below are their stories. The chairs describe their paths to INSEN leadership, the organization's work, challenges, and successes, and how the experience of leading INSEN affected their professional and personal lives. IJNS thanks each of the authors contributing to this collaborative article.

Every chair has done a tremendous job in their tenure as INSEN's leader—and we, the membership and all who have benefitted from their dedication and expertise, are deeply grateful. We look forward to INSEN's next decade under the leadership of colleagues and friends like these.

--Rachel Brooks, Matteo Gerlini, and Russel Hirst



*Prof. Tariq Majeed, 2010-11
Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences*

My experience with the International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN) has been a wonderful experience. Starting from the beginning, when a handful of member institutions were part of INSEN to the current situation (186 members from 65 IAEA Member States), I have found that every INSEN member is committed to do something for nuclear security education. As INSEN began, it seemed it had a long way to go. However, a long journey always starts with the first step, and the success of the journey depends upon keeping on taking the steps, but in the right direction. The great encouragement and continuous guidance provided by experienced INSEN members really made a great difference, as they were willing to go an extra mile to help and facilitate new INSEN members. I strongly believe that the strong commitment of the IAEA (NSNS) as an organization and the superb dedication to all INSEN members and INSEN activities and exceptional facilitation by IAEA scientific secretaries, in every possible way, has made the current stage of INSEN possible. As INSEN's success is a journey and not a destination, INSEN will continue its successful journey in the future.

The main impact of INSEN on my professional experience was the continuous improvement in the quality of nuclear security education delivered at Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS) and at other national institutions in Pakistan. We started nuclear security education at PIEAS when there were no textbooks or instructional materials available for subjects mentioned in Nuclear Security Series (NSS-12). Experts from INSEN member institutions dream of having professionally prepared textbooks and other instructional material through NUSEC portal, and with the relentless efforts of IAEA (NSNS), that dream has come true. INSEN also provided me a great opportunity for professional development in nuclear security by participation in Professional Faculty Development Courses arranged for INSEN members. All of these have helped me to develop great confidence in imparting state-of-the-

art nuclear security education, not only at PIEAS but also at other national institutions in Pakistan. It also has enabled me to facilitate IAEA, as a resource person, in conducting several nuclear security related training courses at both the regional and international level.

I deeply wish that all INSEN members and the IAEA (NSNS) will continue to work with strong devotion, as they have done in the past, to achieve the main objectives and goals of INSEN to make this world a safer place for humanity from the harmful effects of a nuclear security event.



*Dr. Jason Harris, 2012-14
Purdue University*

All of us have defining moments in our lives. A defining moment is a point in your life when you're urged to make a pivotal decision, or when you experience something that fundamentally changes you. Not only do these moments define us, but they have a transformative effect on our perceptions and behaviors. These moments change our lives significantly in some way for good or for bad, personally, professionally, or spiritually. Looking back on my life, I can say that one of these defining moments occurred on May 18, 2011.

In 2011, I was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Nuclear Engineering and Health Physics at Idaho State University (ISU). In addition to teaching and performing research in environmental and reactor health physics and radiation detection, I was becoming involved in developing nuclear engineering programs. Specifically, I was working in the newly established Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES). CAES is a research and education consortium formed in 2008 among Boise State University, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), ISU, University of Idaho, and University of Wyoming. INL researchers, in partnership with students and faculty from partner universities, advance research and development in areas such as nuclear science and engineering, advanced materials, cyber security, energy systems, advanced energy storage, geofluids, bioenergy, and energy policy. I would eventually become the CAES Nuclear Science and Engineering Lead, and later a center Associate Director. One key responsibility I had was to build nuclear engineering and science capabilities among the partner institutions. I presented our accomplishments, including expanding CAES nuclear-related educational offerings, at several professional meetings and conferences.

The defining moment I mentioned earlier came when I presented at the European Nuclear Society (ENS) Nuclear Education and Training (NESTet) conference held in Prague from May 15-18, 2011. After I delivered my presentation on nuclear education in the United States during a Tuesday, May 17 session, I was approached by Ms. Andrea Braunegger-Guelich, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Nuclear Security Education Officer. Given the nature of my work, she encouraged me to attend her presentation the next day to learn about the IAEA's efforts to expand nuclear security education. After I listened to her presentation, I immediately became very interested in nuclear security and began thinking of incorporating it into the ISU nuclear engineering and radiological health physics programs. This was a very new and exciting area that I was not very familiar with. Andrea and I spoke again at the conference and she encouraged me to become involved, specifically with the new IAEA International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN), that was created the previous year.

As they say, the “rest is history.” I became extremely interested in nuclear security education. Actually, I think the word “passionate” is more appropriate. I attended the second Annual Meeting of INSEN in August of that year, became the Working Group (WG) III Chair in early 2012, and the INSEN Chair in late 2012. Because of a change in the IAEA nuclear security education and training structure, I was asked to stay on for a second term as Chair. During my two-year term as Chair, I helped to grow the network from about 20 members to over 100 (representing 40 Member States). I lead the effort to incorporate nuclear security and nuclear nonproliferation elements in the nuclear engineering and health physics programs at both ISU and its partner educational institutions. My own research transitioned to cover nuclear and radiological security risk analysis and the integration of nuclear safety (specifically radiation protection) and nuclear security. I also became very interested in nuclear security professional development and attended as many workshops as I could, especially faculty development and “teach-the-teacher” types. One significant professional development workshop I attended was offered by King’s College London in 2012. This “Introduction to Nuclear Security” course was intended for faculty members from universities and research institutions planning to launch educational courses in nuclear security. This course was significant not only for its content and how it helped me moving forward in developing nuclear security education, but also because of the other participants in attendance. Including myself, seven past, current, or future INSEN Chairs were part of this particular course: Prof. Tariq Majeed, Dr. Dmitriy Nikonov, Prof. Chris Hobbs, Prof. Oum Keltoum Hakam, Prof. James Larkin, and Prof. Johannes Sterba.

To say that being INSEN Chair has had a significant impact on my life is an understatement. Becoming involved in INSEN and being its Chair propelled me on a path of professional and personal enjoyment and success. Since serving as Chair, I have had the fortune to help grow nuclear security education and training in the US and around the world. I have either lectured at or organized a number of professional development courses offered by the IAEA, the US Department of State (formerly the Partnership for Nuclear Security program), the US Department of Energy (DOE), and many universities and non-governmental organizations. After leaving ISU for Purdue University in 2015, I helped secure one of five US DOE nuclear security education program contracts (the others being Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Texas A&M University, Pennsylvania State University, and Oregon State University). Purdue now offers several nuclear security courses across the university and is developing graduate certificate and Master’s programs. In 2018, I founded the Center for Radiological and Nuclear Security (CRANS). CRANS focuses on leveraging strong collaborations between Purdue faculty, staff, and students working in the areas of nuclear, radiological, and homeland security, nuclear nonproliferation, and WMD emergency preparedness.

But what is more important than any of these professional achievements are the personal connections and triumphs that have come from this experience. I have been so fortunate to meet many great people in INSEN from all over the world. Many of these people I consider to be not just colleagues, but friends as well. I have received such satisfaction and gratification in helping others develop the nuclear security education infrastructure at their universities, research institutes, and organizations. INSEN, with its members, leaders, and supporters, have all truly made a positive impact on nuclear security worldwide. I am so grateful to have been a part of it and will continue to do so as long as I can. I look forward to seeing what the next ten years holds for INSEN!



*Prof. Oum Keltoum Hakam, 2016-17
University of Ibn Tofail, Morocco*

The International Nuclear Security Education Network (INSEN) has been established to enhance global nuclear security by developing, sharing, and promoting excellence in nuclear security education, and I believe it has succeeded in its mission so far. Universities and educational institutions worldwide have established nuclear security programs to educate and develop the next generation of nuclear security experts, initiate research projects to enhance nuclear security, and contribute in promoting nuclear security culture.

It has been my great pleasure and honor to engage in the INSEN leadership since 2013, serving first as Vice Chair and then Chair of the Working Group II “Faculty Development and Cooperation among Educational Institutions” from 2013-2015, and subsequently Vice Chair and then Chair of INSEN from 2015-2017. I am the first woman to chair the INSEN network. It was a challenging and rewarding experience both professionally and personally. Thanks to INSEN, I got to know nuclear security experts from all over the world. We meet in nuclear security events at the IAEA and internationally. We also collaborate with each other in organizing faculty development courses and other nuclear security workshops to promote nuclear security education and nuclear security culture worldwide. I was also very excited as I had the opportunity to develop new initiatives and activities during my chairmanship.

Women in Nuclear Security Initiative:

We are all aware that women are under-represented in the field of nuclear security and represent less than 20%. As an educator, I strongly believe that education is the best tool to engage young women in nuclear security. Also, I believe that INSEN provides the best setting for women in nuclear security for networking, information sharing, and resources. In 2016, with the support of INSEN Secretariat, I created this initiative of Women in Nuclear Security to share experiences and to discuss how to strengthen opportunities for women as well as how to overcome the challenges that they face. The results are very encouraging as INSEN members, both females and males, have embraced this initiative and work in their home country to improve gender parity in nuclear security.

Regional School on Nuclear Security for Francophone Africa:

In Africa, there are very few educational programs focusing on nuclear security. The University of Ibn Tofail is one of the forerunners in this field, having established its educational program at an early stage in 2014 while taking into account the need for faculty development courses (FDCs) for national, regional, and international participants, as well as student’s needs for theoretical and practical oriented programs.

In 2016, I worked with the IAEA Secretariat and my university staff to host the first Regional School on Nuclear Security in French. We organized two editions, the first school held in 2017 and the second school held in 2019, to benefit French-speaking African countries. The two-week school presents not only an opportunity to acquire knowledge in various areas of nuclear security but also an opportunity to create a large network of experts at the regional level.

Lecturing on Nuclear Security Education around the World:

As a Chair, I was invited to lecturer on nuclear security education and to promote the INSEN network at conferences and events around the world. Such opportunities allowed me to meet and discuss with nuclear security experts from all over the world about nuclear security education to build new partnerships and strengthen international cooperation in this area.



Prof. James Larkin, 2017-18

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

— Nelson Mandela

As I sit writing this article, I have to carefully focus on the year in question, as the nuclear security journey I have taken has been quite the fairground ride of highs and lows. To be fair, a lot more highs than lows. Lows? Trying to lecture to the International Nuclear Security School in Trieste via a very bad internet connection from South Africa, sitting in an airline lounge somewhere in the world waiting for my 4 AM connection, and the inevitable: airlines losing your luggage. Many of you can sympathize.

This was how I started my chairmanship of INSEN, wearing a borrowed jacket and shirt that made me look like a nightclub bouncer, rather than Chairman of a group of highly motivated and educated people from many global educational institutions. Still, it did mean I could get away with not wearing a tie.

Highlights of my nuclear security journey? Probably too numerous to detail here, but the one I should talk about was being asked to Chair INSEN.

From my understanding of what etimologists say, the word “man” comes from the Latin *manus*, meaning hand. So, the chairman has the “hand on the chair,” that is to say, he or she guides the organization that they are the Chair of. This was certainly the attitude that I wanted to bring to INSEN; to be able to gently steer INSEN on its incredible journey, to keep the organisation moving forward; to keep the core function of developing nuclear security educational material for use by members, but to also try and identify other ways in which the membership could continue to see value in maintaining their membership of INSEN.

In this task, I was incredibly lucky to be assisted and supported by a number of passionate and dedicated people of the INSEN management team. We didn’t always see “eye to eye,” but that’s a good thing. If we all thought the same way, what was the point of meeting? By discussion and debate, we always managed to come to a unified position that took INSEN forward. By this process, we were able to develop a number of ideas that have been incorporated into INSEN going forward, perhaps the biggest being the acceptance that there needs to be a certain amount of educational material looking at the interface between nuclear security and safeguards. In the fullness of time, the educational material will be made available to the INSEN membership.

The most frustrating aspect of being the chairman was the short duration of being in office. Let me explain. The title “Chairman of the International Nuclear Security Education Network” does seem to open a few doors to people who might not have ordinarily taken the time to speak to a person, and this allows one to try and pitch an idea for a course/workshop/seminar for INSEN, but because of the slow speed at which international organizations seem to work, being as they are all tied up with annual budget cycles, it becomes very hard to maintain any sort of momentum leading to a successful conclusion that benefits INSEN. It was a situation I certainly found myself in.

Don’t feel too sorry for me, though, because professionally, it was an incredibly exciting time: invitations to work at Brookhaven National Laboratory as a visiting professor, trips to Kazakhstan to talk to diplomats, consultancy meetings looking at “Development of Leadership in Nuclear Security,” and visits to Algeria, Indonesia, Ghana, Italy, and Nigeria to lecture on various aspects of nuclear security. And I always had the opportunity to meet old friends and make new friends. I believe the correct term is “networking,” strengthening ties with a broad international group of like-minded people who have the same professional aims as myself, to develop new nuclear security practitioners working to keep the world a safer place. All of these opportunities arise because of the title Chairman of INSEN.

Being the first African chairman of INSEN was a privilege and an honor for me, particularly as it is one of the regions of the world that is actively pursuing the goal of “going nuclear.” This has allowed me to pose a number of nuclear security questions to my colleagues that previously haven’t been considered or addressed in any sort of meaningful manner. For example, the growth of interest in going nuclear in the African region combined with many of the “traditional” nuclear countries moving away from nuclear power means that there is a paradigm shift in traditional nuclear security culture. It is no longer Western European countries who are defining nuclear security culture, but rather, it is the “newcomer” countries. As a result of this geographical shift in where nuclear technology is being developed and installed, a new set of solutions needs to be developed to answer perennial questions, such as:

“How do you empower a subordinate to confront a senior member of management who isn’t demonstrating appropriate security awareness, that doesn’t become a career limiting confrontation?”

The western solution, in very many regions of Africa and elsewhere in the new nuclear world, such as China, Indonesia, and India for example, would be completely inappropriate, as it runs against millennia of tradition and deep-seated beliefs.

For the academics within the body of INSEN, there is a deep and rich vein of necessary research that needs to be done to address such issues that extend well beyond the confines of nuclear security, into the areas of nuclear safety and nuclear safeguards. Let’s see the newcomer country academics taking a leading role in this work and teaching the “old dogs” of nuclear security a few new tricks. Don’t let me down, Africa.

I have been fortunate that my university, Wits, has been extremely supportive of my role as INSEN Chairman and other nuclear security related activities, seeing it as what is known as Academic Citizenship, one of the three traditional pillars of academic life (the others being research and teaching). As a direct result of my involvement with INSEN and other nuclear security education initiatives, I was promoted to Adjunct Professor during my tenure as INSEN Chairman; I’m not saying that everyone who takes on a leading role at INSEN will be so fortunate, but especially to the younger members of INSEN, it cannot hurt your career advancement.

So, in conclusion, as in life, so as being Chairman, there were frustrations as well as joy.

As I started this piece with a quote from Nelson Mandela, so I will finish with another appropriate one, especially for those who hold the Chairs of INSEN in the future.

“It always seems impossible until it's done.”

— Nelson Mandela

Many thanks to all my colleagues of INSEN for making the organization what it is, a shining example of what can be achieved by good will, cooperation, and hard work. There are many outside of INSEN that are simply amazed at what has been achieved by us all in the past ten years. To use an appropriate but old-fashioned expression, they are “gobsmacked.” Long may it continue!



*Dr. Sebnem Udum, 2018-19
Hacettepe University*

I started participating in INSEN meetings in 2013 as one of the few academics/researchers in social science working on nuclear security. The first issue that caught my attention was threat assessment. Threat is the result of the intention to give harm combined with capabilities to do so. Prevention, detection, and response to nuclear security threats at the technical and facility levels or to means of transportation focus mainly on the target, that is, capabilities or facilities and transportation means as potential targets. However, the definition of nuclear security includes the phrase “malicious intent.” Nuclear security measures also require detecting, preventing, and responding to the “intention” to give harm, and these tasks fall into realm of social

science.

Usually, nuclear security professionals take “malicious intent” as a constant varying according to nuclear security scenarios, such as external actors like terrorists or insider threats; hence, threat assessment is carried out. However, humans are social beings and we cannot always take malicious intentions in a narrow perspective in our analyses and assessments. An actor who wants to give harm, particularly when it is a terrorist threat, seeks to exploit vulnerabilities. Therefore, they are usually ahead of those who take the measures to create or fortify defenses. What is more, these measures are usually public, and they may help reveal the vulnerabilities rather than deterring the potential perpetrators. So, in the INSEN meetings, such as board discussions, working group meetings, or informal discussions, I brought up this variable of “intention” within threat assessment by drawing attention to the impact of political circumstances on malicious actors’ search for capabilities and their likely targets. In addition, since a significant part of nuclear security scenarios involve international terrorism, I emphasized the need to learn more about the international relations aspect of nuclear security, particularly to understand the motivations of actors to choose nuclear and/or radiological material to inflict harm. As a matter of fact, I taught classes on this topic three times in Ankara University to physics and nuclear energy engineering students, including on where this threat is likely to come from, what can be done to prevent it, and how to raise awareness.

I employ an interdisciplinary approach in my academic studies, so I preferred to promote the significance of social science for nuclear security at INSEN as well. Thinking that I could highlight it better within a leadership position, I applied to become part of the INSEN leadership. I first became Vice Chair of Working Group II in 2015, which then made me the Chair of WG II for 2016. However, due to the political developments in Turkey, I could not attend the 2016 Annual Meeting and my Vice Chair, Mr. Luca Lentini, served as Chair of WG II. In 2017, I was nominated for being Vice Chair of the Network. To make up the gap in 2016, and with the politeness of Mr. Lentini, I chaired the WG II meeting during the 2017 Annual Meeting.

In Turkish, the word INSEN means “It is time you step down.” During the 2017 Annual Meeting, I wrote in a social media post: “I am serving as the Vice Chair of INSEN, former Chair of WG II but indeed chairing WG II as well.” So, a Turkish friend of mine, who had also worked at the IAEA, and who saw the multiple tasks I assumed, humorously wrote to me, “Şebnem, artık INSEN! (it is really time for you to step down!)” And I told her that I still had one very important task for the following year, to be the Chair of the Network.

Apart from the responsibilities, the feeling of being INSEN Chair is a great honor: When Mr. Dmitriy Nikonov, our education secretary, brought the gavel and put it in front of me, it almost transformed me from an academic to someone who carries an enormous responsibility to represent the Network as best as she could. It reminded me that I should be chairing the meeting well not only academically but also administratively, such as accurately keeping the time and collecting questions, while making positive interaction with the audience, which also included new members. At the end of the meeting, I received several comments from happy faces that I served as an impressive Chair. I also had the honor of chairing the sessions of guest speakers, who have been key figures in our field. Last but not least, I delivered a presentation on teaching methods of nuclear security for diverse audiences. I sought to highlight the education, as another technical field covered in INSEN, and talked about topics to be covered and teaching methods to use for diverse audiences.

I humbly contributed to INSEN regarding “networking.” Coming from a foodie family from Southeastern Turkey, I am a foodie who enjoys Mediterranean cuisine. Because of the limited time we have at lunch breaks and diversity of courses at VIC cafeteria, I started discovering nice restaurants serving delicious food in Vienna and invited a small group of friends from the Mediterranean basin. Our dinner programs took the attention of some other INSEN colleagues. So, I called these dinners “Working Group IV” meetings that indeed helped strengthen our ties and build a stronger network. Taking advantage of the international diversity of our network, I suggested exploring different cuisines. So, just like the other three working groups, this one also needed a task: I came up with the idea that each WG IV member shall find and try the best restaurants of their national food in Vienna, and then take the group’s members to this restaurant to enjoy our time and contribute to socializing and networking. We ask a colleague or nominate one to carry out this task for the following year. This seemingly extra-curricular activity helped colleagues to become friends and work more fruitfully. Lately, leadership dinners have also been organized according the concept of WG IV. In that context, so far, we have tried Turkish, Georgian, Italian, Indian, and Thai food, and had fine dining at Vienna’s award-winning restaurant owned and run by world famous Israeli chef, Eyal Shani.

My favorite part of being a member of INSEN is being able to stay in touch with the nuclear security professionals and academics from all around the world and being up to date about the debate in nuclear security. It is also very prestigious, because it makes you and your institution one of the few who is in fact working on and up-to-date in this rising field. Being the Chair of the Network is both hard but also enjoyable, because one can see the culmination of his/her efforts as an active member and feeling its

appreciation, particularly being known by the higher IAEA administration and in other professional networks.



*Johannes H. Sterba, 2019-20 (Current Chair)
Atominstitut, TU Wien
(Photo c. Hellmut Goebel)*

I was introduced to INSEN in 2011 when our institute was approached by Andrea Braunegger-Guehlich and asked to work together on writing a proposal to the EU for the funding of a pilot Master Programme in Nuclear Security. At that time, I was the newly appointed head of nuclear safety for our TRIGA Mk II reactor, and, safety and security being the same word in German, I was considered to be the best choice for this cooperation. Within a few months, I attended a meeting in Delft, got to know the other consortium partners, and attended the 2011 annual INSEN meeting, becoming the contact point for my university.

I still remember very vividly the amicable setting of the annual meeting, the new faces that later became well known, and a general feeling of something new and important growing. The enthusiasm was infectious, and I enjoyed the discussions on teaching methods and presentation styles tremendously.

As these things tend to be, writing the proposal for the pilot Master was a wild rush towards approaching deadlines that also gave me a quick introduction into the difference between training and education and safety and security. During the discussions on the setup of a Master program, I realized how much I enjoyed thinking about the best ways to provide education to students from so many different backgrounds. Doing this thinking with a group of academics, themselves from many different backgrounds, made this experience even more enjoyable. This also made me realize how valuable a network like INSEN could be for our common goal of providing sustainable nuclear security education.

Essentially, I was sold on the idea of us working together towards providing teaching material as well as opportunities for education in nuclear security. Within a year, I attended the great professional development course, “Introduction to nuclear security,” in London. The group of INSEN members I met there has not just become a professional group of cooperators, but, over the course of those intensive days (and evenings!), a group of collabo-friends, people I not only enjoy working with together but also like to meet just for a chat. In this group alone, there are now veterans of INSEN, network chairs, and working group chairs, as well as providers of a lot of the teaching material that is now available.

In 2013, I was asked to serve as chair of Working Group I, a responsibility I tried to handle as well as I could. In retrospect, I think my performance was adequate, even though the textbook on “Introduction to nuclear security” never made it to its final form during my term. During my service as a chair of Working Group I, the circle of INSEN members I got to know beyond remembering their faces and names (I tried hard!) extended considerably. From this network we managed, after the conclusion of the pilot master’s program, to set up a distance learning version of the program centered in Brandenburg. We also managed

to produce teaching materials for all the required courses, as they were set down in NSS 12, and for many of the electives.

Those early years in INSEN laid the foundation of my personal network that has provided me with many great opportunities for cooperation, teaching adventures, faculty and student exchanges, and, last but not least, meetings for coffee in the M-building cafeteria. I would be hard pressed to specify which of those was most enjoyable or productive.

After my service as Working Group chair, I spend a lot of time on finishing up the production of the teaching materials. Finding and convincing (or straight out forcing) INSEN members to author or review those materials has been sometimes frustrating but, now that we have almost all the materials done, mostly rewarding. Again, I got to know many people with similar interests that I thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with. I was honored to be asked to provide my input into the revision of NSS 12, which could be considered our foundational publication. Obviously, I didn't think my participation through, because now we are at a stage where the two unfinished teaching materials for elective courses need to be rewritten before they have been authored. But all joking aside, the revised NSS 12 now incorporates all the experience INSEN could provide, thus offering a most profound base to build on.

When I was asked in 2018 to serve as a vice-chair of the network, I felt greatly honored and gladly accepted. At that time, I didn't realize that the 10th anniversary of INSEN would fall into my period of chairing. Reading through the chairman's reports of the previous meetings, I am humbled and thankful that the former chairs have so expertly calmed the rough waters of the early INSEN years, allowing me a comfortable ride towards the end of our first decade. Quite naturally, this is not just the contribution of our former chairs, but also of each and every member of INSEN who was and is available for discussion, providing input and expertise and putting in countless hours of work on producing materials and building awareness of nuclear security worldwide.

For those who consider joining INSEN, or for your general enjoyment, here are some of the things I, very personally, got to do because of this great network:

- Learn how to hack into a Windows system
- Play around in a 3D virtual reality nuclear facility
- Visit a fuel fabrication facility
- Make police officers fool around with passive infrared alarms to gain access to some chocolate
- Visit a prison, and get out again
- See a spontaneous live break-dance performance by an INSEN member
- Learn all about Ukrainian vodka

I am very much looking forward to walking with all INSEN members into our next decade!