

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES SUPPORTS NUCLEAR AND RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL SECURITY IN BANGLADESH

DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 11 – Every year, hundreds of nuclear and radioactive sources become disused or unwanted in the United States and around the world. The United States National Nuclear Security Administration’s Global Threat Reduction Initiative works to remove and protect nuclear and radiological materials at civilian sites worldwide. The Program directly supports President Obama’s efforts to secure nuclear and radiological materials and protect them from falling into the wrong hands.

Since the Global Threat Reduction Initiative first began working in Bangladesh in 2002, the United States has provided over 3.5 million USD worth of training, equipment, and other types of assistance to Bangladesh. The program has installed security equipment in 15 facilities at 12 sites across the country, including at cancer treatment medical facilities, irradiation facilities, and the Atomic Energy Research Establishment’s nuclear research reactor in Savar. In 2009, Global Threat Reduction Initiative experts removed 14,000 curies of disused radioactive source material from the Gammatech Limited irradiator in Chittagong. The material had been abandoned on shifting ground, posing a serious risk to the country’s safety and security.

From September 9-13, Global Threat Reduction Initiative experts led a radiation security workshop in Dhaka. As part of the “Search and Secure” workshop, the United States donated a suite of radiation detection and identification equipment to Bangladesh and trained representatives from the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, Border Guard Bangladesh, Bangladeshi Customs, and a variety of law enforcement and source-using organizations how to locate, identify, register, and transport radioactive sources within Bangladesh.

During the week, Bangladesh also developed a list of sites likely to contain “orphan” or abandoned radioactive sources. Additional Global Threat Reduction Initiative teams will assist in the search and recovery of the first few identified sites.

This past week’s training, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, builds on a decade of nuclear and radioactive material safeguarding cooperation between the United States and Bangladesh. Through the

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Global Threat Reduction Initiative, the United States is working together with Bangladesh to make a safer, more secure Bangladesh and a safer, more secure world.

For a fact sheet on the United States NNSA's GTRI program, click [here](#).

<http://nnsa.energy.gov/mediaroom/factsheets/reducingthreats>

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