

NBC 2015

9TH SYMPOSIUM ON CBRNE THREATS

– How does the landscape evolve?

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; welcome to Finland and welcome to Helsinki. It is my great pleasure to open the NBC 2015 - 9th Symposium on CBRNE threats - How does the landscape evolve?

This is the first time this symposium is arranged in Helsinki. The NBC 2015 Symposium is the 9th in the series of Finnish Symposium on CBRNE threats arranged by the Association for Protection, Rescue, Security, and Safety (SPT).

The theme this year is "How does the landscape evolve?". The theme suits well the recent global situation. The European Union is also researching ways to progress this response through the Programme to Improve Co-operation in the EU for Preventing and Limiting the Consequences of Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) Threats. There are big efforts going on in Europe to put into force all national implementation concerning CBRNE action plans, directives and decrees given by EU.

Now the happenings around the world show to us that we have to build preparedness against nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical threats. Things we already thought to be history.

The field of CBRNE is an area of growing concern for the international community. Responding to a major CBRNE incident will entail a multi-faced response, requiring coordination and cooperation at all levels to ensure the safety of the public.

These kinds of symposiums give us very a good forum to discuss CBRNE threats and build better response and co-operation between actors. Also the exchange of the information gives us better understanding of these things. The participants of this symposium represent different authorities, research establishments, universities, industry, and companies.

I come from the Ministry of the Interior and our ministry is the main player when we build our society's preparedness against different hazards. Countering the effects of natural disasters or releases of hazardous chemicals, biological materials or radioactive materials, accidental or malevolent, requires cooperation between many different authorities and stakeholders. And there must be also working chain of command, and functioning communication systems.

We have chosen the 'All Hazards Response' way to make our own tasks. I am sure that we will strive to build on this success and increased awareness in the field of CBRNE, particularly in dealing with possible complex catastrophes.

However, it seems to be continuing change in the organisations and also such a development in communication systems that it's very difficult for us authorities to follow up and keep the needed action level effective enough.

We have just in this year set up the CBRNE strategic cooperation group at the government level to coordinate the national cooperation. The group has started its work during the spring. Our first aim is that this group prepares the Finnish CBRNE strategy.

Dear participants,

We had some weeks ago elections to the parliament and just now the handlings of the new government are ongoing. The biggest challenges to the new government are in the economics, but at the same time we in the ministries are preparing the action plan according alignments made by new policy makers.

Our aim is to hold up the flag of internal security and also stress our role as the main coordinator of internal security. These CBRNE-things belong mainly to our ministry and we are doing our best to ensure resources to this preparedness.

Dear guests,

I am delighted to see such an array of participants here in Helsinki. I welcome each of the participants to Helsinki and hope that you all gain from this experience, both on a professional level but also on a personal level and that you all enjoy the warmth of the Finnish welcome. I hope that you have a fruitful symposium and wish you good cooperation during these days in Helsinki.