

Minutes of the board meeting in Copenhagen 22 June 2016

Present: Sigurður M. Magnússon (Chair), Jorma Aurela, Ole Harbitz, Steen Hoe, Annelie Bergman, Atle Valseth, Jens-Peter Lynov, Olga German, Tarja Ikäheimonen, Timo Vanttola, Haraldur Hannesson, Emma Palm, Kasper Andersson, Palle Sundstrøm (auditor – meeting items 1 to 6) and Finn Physant (meeting secretary)

Apologies: Astrid Liland, Eva Simic, Mette Øhlenschläger and Nici Bergroth

1 Opening

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Special welcomes and thanks were given to the host Jens-Peter Lynov, DTU Nutech. The Chair also expressed special welcomes to Haraldur Hannesson, SIS, who in this meeting replaced Mette Øhlenschläger, and the auditor Palle Sundstrøm, who in this meeting was present for meeting items 1 to 6.

2 Practical remarks

Practical remarks about the meeting were given. Finn Physant was appointed meeting secretary.

3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

4 Minutes of the last board meeting (Stockholm 14 January 2016)

The minutes were approved. Actions A to E noted in the appendix of the minutes of the January board meeting will be noted in parenthesis in these minutes.

5 Accounts 2015

The auditor Palle Sundstrøm presented the distributed material: the Financial Statements 2015 and the Long-form audit report both dated 4 April 2016. The distributed material and Palle Sundstrøm's presentation did not contain any qualifications, special remarks etc.

The board took note of this and recommended the 2015 accounts to be approved by the owners.

6 Financial status for the current year

Finn Physant presented the Financial status report dated 3 June 2016. The reserve at present was estimated to approximately DKK 908,000 / EUR 122,000 – in accordance with the auditor's recommendation of having a reserve of approximately DKK 1,000,000 / EUR 135,000. The board took note of the quite good financial situation.

7 News since last board meeting

a) Report from the owners' group

There has been no owners' group meeting since the last board meeting.

b) News from board members' organisations

The members informed each other about relevant news.

Jorma Aurela presented good news about next year's contribution from the Ministry of Employment and the Economy. EUR 10,000 will be added to this year's contribution resulting in a total contribution of EUR 350,000 in 2017.

Annelie Bergman, SSM, informed the board that Emma Palm has got a new position at SSM and will unfortunately not be able to continue as PC-R longer than until January 2017 meeting. The owners of NKS had been informed of this a few days ago and had received the CV of Christian Linde, whom SSM proposes to replace Emma. Furthermore SSM had proposed that Emma and Christian could work in parallel up till the board meeting in January. The owners agreed to the proposal of SSM and the board took note of the owners' decision. SSM confirmed that Emma and Christian would work in parallel up till the board meeting in January at no extra cost to NKS.

Steen Hoe informed the board that this meeting was his last board meeting and that Jeppe Pedersen will replace Steen Hoe as DEMA's board member.

Timo Vanttola informed the board that this meeting maybe was his last board meeting, but a new VTT board member has not yet been appointed.

The Chair expressed to both Steen Hoe and Timo Vanttola that they will be missed and thanked them for their contributions to NKS.

c) Administrative news

Finn Physant presented the new pamphlet (action A) and the 2016 version of "This is NKS". Finn Physant also presented the revised "Handbook for NKS applicants and activity leaders", which had been revised according to the decisions of the last board meeting. The revisions were concerning the definition of a "young scientist" and the possibility for young scientists of being granted travel support not only for events held within the Nordic countries, but also outside the Nordic countries. The revisions are also reflected on the website (actions D and E). The board took note of the administrative news.

8 R-part: status

Emma Palm made a presentation of the status of the ongoing R-part activities. Overall the work in NKS-R is progressing well. Since the last board meeting in January, final reports for four activities have been published on the NKS website. All contracts for the 2016 activities have been agreed and signed. There are no delayed activities from before 2015. All activities initiated earlier than 2015 have been finally reported. Several articles have been published and some more are planned to be published within the NKS-R program and one master thesis has been completed.

The number of evaluators for the NKS-R and NKS-B programs respectively was discussed, and it was decided that a balanced distribution of the evaluators for the programs with respect to competence area and country exists with the following distribution:

NKS-B (7 evaluators)	NKS-R (6 evaluators)	Reserve (3)
Tarja K. Ikäheimonen		
Olga German		
Astrid Liland	Nici Bergroth	
Mette Øhlenschläger	Timo Vanttola	
Steen Cordt Hoe	Atle Valseth	
Eva Simic	Annelie Bergman	
Sigurður M. Magnússon		
		Ole Harbitz
		Jorma Aurela
		Jens-Peter Lynov

Furthermore, the submission time for the final reports from the NKS activities was discussed. It was noted that several activities submit the final report later than the date given in the contract between the activity leader and NKS. To encourage on time submission, the NKS program managers shall stress the importance of submitting in time as delayed reports may influence the evaluators and their ability to make an accurate evaluation of any submitted proposals for continuation of the activity (action B).

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B-part: status

Kasper Andersson presented the status of the NKS-B activities. Overall, the work in NKS-B is progressing well. Since the last board meeting in January, final reports for seven activities have been published on the NKS website. All contracts for the 2016 activities have been agreed and signed. There are no delayed activities from before 2015. All activities initiated earlier than 2015 have been finally reported. Several articles have been published. Four NKS-B seminars were announced, although only one of these was still open for registration (GammaSpec), and brief minutes were given of the first workshop of the activity COASTEX. Kasper Andersson reported that the decision on the possibility to obtain financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers to run the NORMSEM activity proposed for the NKS-B CfP 2016 is still pending, but should be taken up at a meeting shortly after this NKS board meeting (action C). Finally, Kasper Andersson presented the coordination group's proposal for a more ambitious publication of NKS and its recent

results, particularly in relation to the Fukushima accident, in a paper in a peer-reviewed journal. The idea was strongly supported by the board. The board proposed that it might be even better to prepare several papers to ensure all important aspects of our cooperation to be covered. The coordination group will develop this idea further for the next board meeting.

10 NKS seminar on current trends in nuclear and radiological safety 2016

The seminar carried out 12-13 January was presented by Kasper Andersson, who gave an overview of the seminar. The overview included the wide range of topics, presentations, speakers and prominent international speakers, feedback from participants, beneficial spin-off, problems addressed in activities, clearer “aligned” NKS scope and improved overview, expenses and comparison with earlier seminars. One conclusion was: “Papers outlining the work of NKS in context and depth can now be written”. Another conclusion concerning R and B seminars was: “We seem to have found a better recipe in recent years”. Kasper Andersson finalized and concluded his presentation with the question: “NKS Seminar on current trends in nuclear and radiological safety 2019-?”

Finn Physant presented the results and conclusions of a comparison of the surveys carried out after the 2013 and 2016 seminars. The contents and results of the surveys were reported to the board: overall rate, relevance, usefulness, quality of presentations, seminar organization, scheduling, timing, facility, venue and handouts. One outstanding response - out of many very positive responses – was the average rating of 4,5 (of 5) on “How likely are you to attend future NKS seminars?” The overall conclusion was: “The coordination group therefore proposes to start working for a 2019 seminar”.

After the two presentations of this meeting item the Chair thanked Olga German and Vattenfall for granting NKS excellent seminar venue and facilities for this year’s seminar. The Chair then invited the board members to comment on the seminar work. The coordination group took note of the board members’ comments and after some discussion the Chair summed up the board’s inputs as follows:

- the relevance was not regarded as high in 2016 as in 2013
- the presentations both in number and length must be worked on
- good mix of topics – also in balancing the technical and policy parts – the speakers must also be encouraged to address this
- an excellent seminar – an important outreach of NKS
- the seminar format can still be improved
- strong recommendation: at least one of each sex as key speakers

The Chair proposed an agreement in principle that NKS starts working on a new seminar. The board agreed to this. The coordination group will prepare a first overall draft for a new seminar for the next board meeting.

11 Information activities

Finn Physant informed the board about the website, newsletters etc. – The present generation website was implemented in 2012 and is still considered to be a good and efficient everyday working tool. Website visitor statistics were presented concluding that the level of use of the website has been quite stable seen over the last couple of years. A relatively high level of use did occur in connection with the Fukushima seminar January 2013. This did again occur in connection with the 2016 seminar. Views of seminar video presentations are many for a relatively short period just after the upload of the presentations to the website. This was the case in both 2013 and 2016. The website use does for instance also rise in connection with the call for proposals in September and October every year.

Since the last board meeting 4 NewsFlashes have been distributed. The first one of 19 January was a summary report from the January board meeting including the result of the 2016 call for proposals, and the second of 22 January included links to all the 2016 seminar presentations. On 29 January the link to all the 2016 seminar video presentations was presented and the NewsFlash on 4 May contained young scientist travel support, upcoming seminars and new reports. Besides this a NewsLetter was distributed 14 June presenting upcoming seminars etc.

There is a list of more than 500 e-mail addresses, to which NKS electronic letters are distributed.

The new pamphlet was presented under meeting item 7.

Annelie Bergman asked for a graphic presentation of the data showing the last years' website use. – Finn Physant will prepare such a presentation for the next board meeting.

Olga German asked for the status of and plans for the NKS LinkedIn group site. – The coordination group will look into this and report back to the board at its next meeting.

12 Research activities in 2017

Kasper Andersson informed the board about this year's call for proposals (CfP). There will be a CfP for both the B- and R-part opening on 1 September with deadline 14 October. The proposals will be passed on to the board members no later than 15 October. The deadline for submission of evaluations from board members will be 15 November and the next coordination meeting will take place in the beginning of December.

The Chair proposed the budget for 2016 for each programme's activities to be set to at least DKK 3,250,000 – and more if possible. The board agreed to this.

The Chair will ask the owners and co-financiers for a possible raise of funding in 2017 compared to their funding in 2016. The decision of the Finnish owner to raise the contribution by EUR 10,000 in 2017 was confirmed. Ole Harbitz announced that the contribution from NRPA in 2017 may be at a reduced level, because of the financial situation. For the other owners the expectation at this time is that the contributions of 2017 will be the same as in 2016.

13 Other issues

None.

14 Next meeting

Next meeting will be in Oslo 17 January (dinner) and 18 January (meeting) 2017.

15 End of meeting

Many thanks for a good meeting – in particular to the host DTU Nutech – were expressed by the Chair.

Sigurður M. Magnússon
Chair

Finn Physant
Meeting secretary

Appendix: Actions from the board meeting

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- A. Ref. item 9: Finally, Kasper Andersson presented the coordination group's proposal for a more ambitious publication of NKS and its recent results, particularly in relation to the Fukushima accident, in one or possibly more papers in a peer-reviewed journal. The idea was strongly supported by the board. The coordination group will develop this idea further for the next board meeting.
- B. Ref. item 10: The Chair proposed an agreement in principle that NKS starts working on a new seminar. The board agreed to this. The coordination group will prepare a first overall draft for a new seminar for the next board meeting.
- C. Ref. item 11: Annelie Bergman asked for a graphic presentation of the data showing the last years' website use. – Finn Physant will prepare such a presentation for the next board meeting.
- D. Ref. item 11: Olga German asked for the status of and plans for the NKS LinkedIn group site. – The coordination group will look into this and report back to the board at its next meeting.