Key elements of trust building in nuclear collaboration


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We learned about trust (and distrust) at an early age

- Basic principles are the same
- Some of the rules are more complex
- Trust is slowly earned quickly lost
Effective trust building is multi-layered

- Nations
- Organizations
- Peers
Prerequisites for trust?

• Mutual motivation

• Basic rules of engagement
  – Strong nuclear security credentials
  – Liability management
  – Framework for conflict resolution

• Competence

• Capability

• Stability

• Track record
Transparency is essential

- Clear expectations
- Transparent operations
- Open, clear, responsive communication
Many good examples exist

- WANO
- GIF
- IFNEC
- NEA
- Global corporations
- Regulator forums
- Professional organizations
- Scientific user facilities
- IAEA
Some elements of trust building

• Ensure that a win-win situation is achievable—all partners will benefit if goals are realized
• Long-term effort: start slowly, monitor, increase scope
• Trust building for nuclear energy RDD&D is not that different from other endeavors
• Establish expectations and rules
• Communicate frequently and openly within the terms of agreement
• Copy the applicable parts of other successful collaborations
• Nuclear is slow; manage change (e.g., in personnel)