Project on Nuclear Issues

2010 Fall Conference
September, 21 – 22
Atomic Weapons Establishment
Aldermaston, United Kingdom

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The Center for Strategic and International Studies established the Project on Nuclear Issues (PONI) in 2003 in order to develop and sustain a vibrant community of nuclear weapons experts. The PONI yearly conference series brings together junior and senior level professionals from the national laboratories, the military, and industry, academia and policy sectors to hear selected presentations on nuclear weapons policy, strategy and supporting infrastructure. PONI holds three regional conferences per year and then a fourth Capstone Conference at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. The final conference features a selection of presentations from the preceding three. Those selected for the Capstone Conference will also be invited to publish a paper based on their presentation in a journal produced by CSIS.

We are now accepting proposals for presentations at the 2010 Summer Conference, which will be held on September 21-22 at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Aldermaston, UK. This conference, like each conference this year, will generally focus on the following four topics.

- Nuclear Strategy, Policy, and Posture
- Nuclear Nonproliferation
- Scientific and Operational Support
- Nuclear Disarmament and Material Security

A more detailed version of the 2010 PONI Research Agenda accompanies this call for presentations. Additionally, a $500 honorarium is being offered for presentations on issues related to Technical Nuclear Forensics. **Presentations are to be no more than 11 slides in length and last no longer than 10 minutes.** Your presentation proposal should be no more than 2 pages and, although there are no formal requirements, would ideally include the following.

1. Your name and business/school affiliation
2. Notional title of presentation
3. Issue background (brief)
4. Summary of argument

Presentation proposals are due by August 9, 2010 and should be sent to mjansson@csis.org. Travel support is available for presenters lacking university or organizational backing. If you have any questions about the submission process for the Fall PONI conference, please contact PONI Coordinator Mark Jansson at (202) 775-3286 or mjansson@csis.org. More information about the Project on Nuclear Issues can be found on the PONI website, located at http://www.csis.org/isp/poni/.

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2010 PONI Research Agenda

This agenda was developed to capture key nuclear issues in 2010 and thereby serve as a reference for those interested in presenting during the 2010 series. It is not intended to predetermine presentation topics in advance of the conference. PONI considers all nuclear policy or strategy-related presentation proposals and encourages creative thinking to stimulate the debate.

1. **Nuclear Strategy, Policy, and Posture**
    a. The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review and its effects on wider U.S. nuclear policy
    b. Ballistic Missile Defense: technical and operational issues, and strategic impacts
    c. The role of nuclear weapons in the 21st century
    d. Declaratory policy: what should it be and why
    e. Assuring allies and deterring potential adversaries
    f. Operationalizing the strategic triad or other potential models
    g. Implications of the nonproliferation policies and nuclear postures of other nations on the U.S. and vice versa
    h. Etc.

2. **Nuclear Nonproliferation**
    a. Maximizing benefits and minimizing risks of civil nuclear cooperation
    b. Diplomatic strategies for dealing with suspected NPT violations (e.g. Iran and North Korea)
    c. Strengthening international enforcement of NPT obligations
    d. 2010 NPT Review Conference Outputs and Implications
    e. Fuel supply guarantees and other options for mitigating proliferation risks
    f. Strengthening the counter-proliferation system, e.g. through the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, etc.
    g. Disrupting proliferation networks through UNSC 1540 implementation and other means
    h. Prospects/risks for future proliferation; regional cascades, proliferation networks, etc.
    i. Etc.

3. **Scientific and Operational Supports to Nuclear Strategy and Policy**
    a. Maintaining a safe, secure and effective nuclear stockpile without testing
    b. Nonproliferation and radiation detection sciences: technical and operational developments and challenges
    c. Nuclear forensic science: data collection and post-detonation operations
    d. Role of dual-use science and engineering to retain competency and evaluate treaty compliance via technical means
    e. Governance of the nuclear enterprises of nuclear powers
    f. Nuclear weapons management and operations within the armed forces
    g. Improving the physical security of deployed stockpiles
    h. Etc.

4. **Nuclear Disarmament and Material Security**
    a. New START and future considerations for bilateral arms control
    b. Building a foundation for multilateral arms control
    c. Next steps following the April Nuclear Security Summit
    d. Possibilities for future multilateral arms reduction frameworks
    e. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: key issues for ratification and entry into force
    f. Negotiating a verifiable Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty
    g. Securing all nuclear materials and vulnerable sites within four years
    h. Etc.