

Media Advisory

1 July 2008

CTBTO to conduct first integrated on-site inspection exercise in September in Kazakhstan

International experts from all over the world will meet in September in Kazakhstan to test one of the key elements of a global alarm system to monitor the comprehensive ban on nuclear testing. The Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) will conduct its first large scale integrated on-site inspection exercise **from 1-25 September 2008 at the former Soviet nuclear test site Semipalatinsk in Kazakhstan.** The on-site inspection phase will be preceded by a week of testing related launch activities at the CTBTO Headquarters in Vienna, Austria, which will include the assembly of the Inspection Team.

The **Integrated Field Exercise 2008 or IFE08** will be the largest and most ambitious exercise ever conducted by the CTBTO and will reinforce the CTBT's role as a key instrument of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. The scope of the exercise is unprecedented. It will involve a team of 40 inspectors and the shipment of over 40 tonnes of equipment to the inspection area within a few days. The logistical efforts and organizational challenges make the exercise resemble a humanitarian aid operation rather than an inspection under a non-proliferation treaty.

Media activities

CTBTO will undertake a range of media activities to provide comprehensive information to a wide international audience on the exercise, including press conferences, a media day for interested journalists in the field and a dedicated area on the new CTBTO web site.

Press briefing on 21 August 2008 in Vienna, Austria

The press briefing will take place a few days before the start of the exercise's first phase in Vienna.

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan, H.E. Kairat Abdrakhmanov [TBC], and the CTBTO Executive Secretary, Tibor Tóth, will brief the media on the upcoming exercise and its importance for international verification and for non-proliferation and disarmament. The Director of the On-Site Inspection Division, Boris Kvok, will inform about the preparations for the exercise and the expected sequence of inspection activities.

Press conference on 1 September 2008 in Almaty, Kazakhstan

The press conference will take place on the first day of IFE08 activities. Kazakhstan will be represented by H.E. Marat Tazhin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan [TBC], and H.E. Sauat Mynbayev, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Kazakhstan [TBC]. The Executive Secretary, Tibor Tóth, and the Director of the OSI Division, Boris Kvok, will participate on behalf of the CTBTO.

The press conference will highlight the milestone character of the Integrated Field Exercise in the preparation for entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and in the larger framework of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and international peace and security.

Media Day

The media day will allow journalists to obtain first-hand impressions of on-site inspection activities carried out during the exercise. Journalists will be able to access the Base of Operations of the exercise and experience inspection activities conducted there such as radiation measurements of environmental samples in field laboratories, decontamination procedures and data analysis of a range of different measurements carried out in the inspection area. Presentations will be given to inform

journalists about the CTBT's global alarm system with emphasis on on-site inspections, its procedures, techniques and equipment.

When: 11 September 2008

Where: Former nuclear test site of Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan

Tentative Programme

10 September 2008, afternoon	Transport from Semey to Kurchatov arranged by CTBTO. Duration appr. 3 hours.
Overnight stay in Kurchatov	CTBTO will assist in arrangements. Costs to be borne by journalists.
11 September 2008, early morning	Transport from Kurchatov to inspection area arranged by CTBTO. Duration appr. 4 hours.
11 September 2008, late morning	Introduction to the exercise.
11 September 2008, lunch	Provided by CTBTO.
11 September 2008, afternoon	Guided tour through Base of Operations, including interviews and presentations. Duration appr. 4 hours.
11 September 2008, late afternoon	Return trip to Kurchatov. Transport arranged by CTBTO. Duration appr. 4 hours.
Overnight stay in Kurchatov	CTBTO will assist in arrangements. Costs to be borne by journalists.
12 September 2008, early morning	Return trip to Semey. Transport arranged by CTBTO. Duration appr. 3 hours.

Please note that this programme is tentative. Information about changes in the programme and further organizational details will be forwarded when available.

Journalists are requested to express their interest in attending the media day by 23 July 2008 in writing to Mr. Christian Evertz, at christian.evertz@ctbto.org.

Please register early since arrangements can be made for a limited number of persons only!

Please note that the CTBTO will only assist in the organization of logistical matters as indicated in the tentative programme. Interested parties are responsible for all other arrangements including but not limited to travel to/from and within Kazakhstan, visa applications, insurance and all other necessary administrative and logistical matters. The CTBTO will not accept responsibility for any other expenses incurred, nor will the organization be held liable for any injury, illness, damage, loss, accident or other claim which may result during the exercise.

CTBTO web site

For more information on the CTBT verification regime and on-site inspections, please visit the CTBTO web site at www.ctbto.org. A dedicated area on IFE08 will be updated regularly with all information pertaining to the upcoming exercise in Kazakhstan.

For more information on practical matters, please contact Chris Evertz at christian.evertz@ctbto.org.

For more information on the exercise and on on-site inspections please contact Kirsten Haupt at kirsten.haupt@ctbto.org.