

Country highlights

The 2018 NTI Nuclear Security Index ranked 22 countries with 1 kilogram or more of weapons-usable nuclear materials, 154 countries with less than 1 kilogram of such materials or no nuclear material at all, and 44 countries and Taiwan with nuclear facilities where an act of sabotage could result in a dangerous release of radiation. Highlights include the following:

- Australia and Switzerland were tied as having the most favorable nuclear materials security conditions in NTI's theft ranking category. Australia has held the top spot since the ranking began in 2012.
- Japan improved its theft score more than any other country since 2012 by decreasing quantities of nuclear material and improving insider threat-prevention measures, as well as adding physical and cybersecurity regulations.
- China, Belgium, and Germany made notable improvements to their theft scores by taking important steps in areas such as insider threat prevention, cybersecurity, and physical security during transport and at facilities.
- Among countries with less than 1 kilogram of weapons-usable nuclear materials, Finland, New Zealand, and Sweden tied for top ranking in the theft category.
- Finland has the most favorable nuclear materials security conditions in NTI's sabotage ranking among countries with nuclear facilities, which includes power plants and research reactors. As in 2016, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United Kingdom round out the top five countries in NTI's sabotage ranking.

nancially support the IAEA and follow its suggested guidelines.

"It is clear that governments struggle to stay ahead of—even keep pace with—evolving and escalating threats, so it is more important than ever that countries stay focused on improving security within

their own borders and on developing an effective global security system to protect the world's deadliest materials," Moniz said.

NTI Nuclear Security Index—Threat/Sabotage: Building a Framework for Assurance, Accountability, and Action is available for download at <<https://ntiindex.org>>.

CONGRESS

Cybersecurity subject of Senate committee hearing

The Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism on August 21 heard testimony on cybersecurity issues from a number of witnesses, including Thomas Fanning, chairman, president, and chief executive officer of Southern Company, and James Lewis, senior vice president at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Fanning's and Lewis's comments focused on cyber threats facing the U.S. electrical grid.

Fanning, a co-chair of the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council, outlined several steps that he and others throughout the industry have taken to collectively thwart hackers as well as to prepare for an incident that would take down a portion of the grid. Southern Company has 9 million customers and operates 200,000 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines. It also operates the Farley nuclear plant in Alabama and the Hatch and Vogtle plants in Georgia.

"The threat to our way of life is growing," Fanning said. "But so is the work that is under way to prepare our systems, to prevent attacks, to detect intrusions, to

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