

2020 success for young nuclear workers

The Young Generation Network (YGN), focusses on personal and professional development for its members while aiming to attract the next generation of nuclear workers.

The network this year has been supported by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) as its industry partner, who have formed a working group to offer opportunities to early-career professionals across the NDA group.

The group helped to organise 14 events during YGN Festival Week which attracted over 600 attendees that covered topics such as sustainable development, climate change and waste management, and a webinar series focused on UK decommissioning held in September.

Hannah Paterson, Technology Manager at Sellafield Ltd in Spent Fuel Management Strategy and Technical, helped organise Festival Week.

She said:

Festival week created such an awesome buzz which was wonderful to see.

We had great speakers, it was interactive, and feedback from attendees was that they particularly enjoyed the virtual coffee networking session where they were randomly chosen to meet other UK and international nuclear professionals and expand their network.

Grace Frost, Sub Project Manager at Sellafield Ltd in Programme and Project Partners, arranged the webinar events.

She said:

The 'Decommissioning Spotlights' series was a huge triumph for the Industry Partner working group. A lot of learning from this event can be taken to support future endeavours of the partnership.

Meanwhile, Sellafield Ltd has 3 employees on next year's YGN Strategic Committee – the largest company representation – with Hannah as Chair, Grace as the Industry Liaison Lead and Stacy Snook from Security and Resilience who will lead YGN Marketing and Communications.

Stacy said:

I'm excited to join the YGN Committee. The pandemic has demonstrated how important clear digital communications are in lieu of physical events and interactions.

I'm hoping to use my role to ensure we can reach a wider audience so the YGN can continue to encourage and develop the UK's early career professionals and demonstrate that the nuclear industry is an exciting destination for young people.

Grace said:

It's amazing to have 3 Sellafield Ltd workers holding strategic roles on the committee. It was also great that Quality Degree Apprentice Phillipa Hawley was recently awarded the 2020 YGN Excellence prize for her commitment and enthusiasm to support the YGN.

As the YGN Committee transitions into 2021, preparations are underway to develop next year's calendar of events.

Hannah added:

Despite not being able to host visits, events and conferences, we still had a great year, we can't wait to arrange a programme of events for 2021 and we'll be in touch with further details.

Children's Minister speaks during Anti-Bullying Week

I would like to start by thanking all the organisations involved in organising and taking part in this year's Anti-Bullying Week. I know it has been quite challenging to arrange this year – in what has been a very difficult time due to COVID-19.

We know bullying can have a devastating effect on children and their families, and we must make sure that we do not let up in our efforts to tackle it, especially at this particularly difficult time in children's lives.

This year's theme is 'United Against Bullying' and I am so proud to be supporting it. It feels particularly important right now as it gives us an opportunity to bring together children and young people to focus on this important issue, and to shine a light on the positive things that we can all do to help put a stop to it.

As many of you will know, the Department for Education has been a proud

partner of the Diana Award since 2011, and we have been providing funding for the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Programme since 2016. This funding has been used to train and support thousands of children and young people to become ambassadors, and I am so pleased that the Diana Award will be continue to support schools when our grant programme ends next year.

I welcome the Demos independent evaluation of the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors programme, and I would also like to congratulate the Diana Award for empowering over 35,000 young people to make a real difference in their schools through the programme – what an achievement.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors provide ongoing peer support to their cohort and go on to share best practice. This is incredibly important, as we know that many young people turn to their friends and peers first when they have a concern or issue.

Having said that, the Government is committed to supporting schools, and indeed all education settings, to prevent and tackle all forms of bullying. We want schools to be safe, calm places where pupils can thrive.

Bullying can also have a serious effect on mental health. Children who are exposed to bullying are likely to experience higher rates of anxiety, depression, and self-harm in adulthood.

In these unprecedented times, many pupils are returning to school having been exposed to a range of adversity and trauma including bereavement, anxiety and in some cases increased welfare and safeguarding risks. Some children, particularly vulnerable groups, will need additional support and access to services such as educational psychologists, social workers and counsellors.

To support these children, we have put in place a range of measures, including guidance for settings and an £8m training initiative for educational staff and Local Authority services to support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing. This will help to make sure that schools are alert to underlying issues arising as a consequence of the pandemic, which might lead to behaviour issues and bullying.

The challenge has broadened over recent years with more and more use of online activities such as social media and gaming. Spending time online can be very beneficial for children, particularly at the moment where it can provide the opportunity to connect with friends and family. But we recognise the worry about online safety.

The evidence does suggest that a lot of online child bullying is an extension of the bullying that happens between pupils at school. But online bullying follows children back home, is difficult to escape from, and the bully can also hide behind the anonymity of online platforms. Worryingly, online bullying can rapidly amplify, escalate, and go viral. This brings extra pressure to the victims. I want to make it clear that all forms of bullying, including cyberbullying, for whatever reason, is unacceptable.

I am also concerned by the use of deeply offensive language on certain online

platforms. While some social media platforms let the user regulate content such as with profanity filters, others do not. Therefore, vile language that would never be printed or expressed in a traditional newspaper or media broadcasts, is allowed to run rife across Twitter.

I am concerned that this online activity normalises hate speech and normalises bullying. I want to send a clear message that deeply offensive language on social media is unacceptable, just as it is unacceptable face to face. It should never be tolerated or dismissed as banter.

To help in our efforts to combat cyberbullying and support children from all forms of online harm we have published specific guidance to help schools teach their pupils how to stay safe online. This guidance helps schools to ensure that children have the skills and knowledge they need to make the best use of the internet and technology in a safe, considered and respectful way.

Obviously, children's online life extends far beyond what schools can control and influence. These efforts need to be backed up by a responsible approach from social media platforms, who must take responsibility for what happens on their watch, and especially when children use their services.

The Government remains committed to delivering legislation to tackle online harms, as set out in the online harms white paper. This will introduce a statutory duty of care on companies to take steps to protect their users, including children, from harm.

But I want to be clear that companies should not wait for legislation to act – they can make a real difference to the lives of children right now.

Protecting children from online harms is also part of wider government priorities. Research shows that around a quarter of children and young people have sent a nude image to someone they are interested in; and almost half have received a nude image of someone else, sent by that same person. The potential risks of creating or sharing these types of images are significant – and it may lead to embarrassment, bullying or indeed vulnerability (for example blackmail) if shared further.

That is why we are working with the UK Council for Internet Safety's Education Working Group, in consultation with the National Police Chief's Council, to update guidance for education settings working with children and young people on sharing nudes and semi-nudes.

We also work with other experts such as the National Crime Agency, Internet Matters, the Internet Watch Foundation and the NSPCC to help make sure children are safe online, whether in the classroom or learning from home.

I know that tackling bullying is a priority for many organisations both inside and outside government. I recently met with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Bullying, who are supported by the Red Balloon Learner Group, to discuss our future plans for anti-bullying policy and the latest research and findings regarding bullying in schools.

So let me finish off by thanking everyone – young and old – across the

country who is working to be united against bullying. I look forward to hearing more about this week's events and working with you all to help tackle bullying. Together, we can stop bullying for good. Thank you.

Joint statement of the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council

News story

A joint statement from the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council after their first meeting to accelerate the pace of the global transition to zero emission vehicles.



For the first time, Ministers and representatives from some of the world's largest and most progressive car markets have come together to form a new Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council.

Hosted by the COP26 President, Alok Sharma, the Council met to discuss how to accelerate the pace of the global transition to zero emission vehicles.

These Ministers and representatives have agreed to collectively address some of the key challenges in the transition to ZEVs, enabling the transition to be faster, cheaper, and easier for all.

The Council was made up of Ministers and representatives from California, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, South Korea and Sweden, the United Kingdom.

The following joint statement was released after the Council meeting.

1. A rapid global transition to zero emission vehicles is vital to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change. Road transport accounts for over 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and these emissions are rising. We need to dramatically increase the pace of the global

transition to meet our Paris Agreement goals. This will also offer huge opportunities for jobs and growth, cleaner air, improved public health, and could also boost energy security and help balance electricity grids as we make the transition to clean power.

2. In response to this global challenge and historic opportunity, we met today as the Zero Emission Vehicles Transition Council to discuss how to increase the pace of the transition. As ministers and representatives from governments whose markets collectively account for around half of all new vehicle sales globally, we have a unique responsibility. The actions we take, in dialogue with industry, and also with businesses, cities and regions, and wider civil society, will determine the pace of the global transitions to zero emission vehicles. While our national contexts and policy approaches may differ, the transition will be faster, easier and lower cost for all if we work together.
3. We will use this forum to coordinate our efforts. We will act together to overcome strategic, political and technical barriers, accelerate the production of zero emission vehicles, and increase economies of scale. We will boost investment, bring down costs and increase the uptake of zero emission vehicles and the many economic, social and environmental benefits it brings.
4. We will explore specific opportunities for collaboration in areas including:
 - a) aligning the future of the road transport sector with Paris Agreement goals, focusing on the role of zero emission technologies and key policies, while also considering the roles of alternative technologies in the transition,
 - b) ensuring the transition to zero emission vehicles is truly global, leaving no country or region behind,
 - c) ensuring the lifecycle (from production to scrapping) of zero emission vehicles is sustainable and inclusive,
 - d) ensuring the enabling infrastructure is in place, including electric vehicle chargepoints and hydrogen vehicle re-fuelling, in the context of decarbonising the power sector and growing the hydrogen economy,
 - e) coordinating our innovation efforts.

5. As we work to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, we recognise that the

decisions we make today will be critical for laying the foundations for sustainable and inclusive growth. As such, we commit to ensuring our recovery plans support an accelerated transition to zero emission vehicles as part of broader efforts to boost growth and employment, while promoting cleaner and more sustainable economies.

Signatories:

- Alok Sharma, COP President and Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK
- Benny Engelbrecht, Minister of Transport, Denmark
- Jared Blumenfeld, California Secretary for Environmental Protection
- Jean-Baptiste Djebbari, Minister for Ecological Transition, France
- Kang Kyungsung, Deputy Minister, Trade and Investment, Ministry of Trade Industry and Energy, South Korea
- Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, Canada
- Mathias Fischer, State Secretary, Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway
- Shigehiro Tanaka, Vice-Minister for International Affairs, Japan
- Stientje van Veldhoven, State Secretary for Infrastructure & Water Management, Netherlands
- Teresa Ribera, Minister for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain
- Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure, Ministry of Infrastructure, Sweden
- Dr. Graciela Márquez Colín, Minister of Economy, Mexico

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PM call with Prime Minister Modi: 27 November 2020

Press release

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Today the Prime Minister spoke to Indian Prime Minister Modi.

The leaders discussed the work the UK and India are doing together across trade, climate change, defence, security and health. The Prime Minister said 2021 would be a year to deepen and strengthen the UK-India relationship.

The Prime Minister and Prime Minister Modi discussed joint efforts to find treatments and vaccines for coronavirus, and welcomed the collaboration between our countries' leading scientists.

They looked forward to next month's Climate Ambition Summit, which will be an opportunity to reinvigorate the global efforts against climate change ahead of the UK-hosted COP26 Summit next year.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance of improving bilateral trade and investment flows. Both leaders welcomed the extensive work that has taken place on this to date and shared an ambition for deepening the economic relationship.

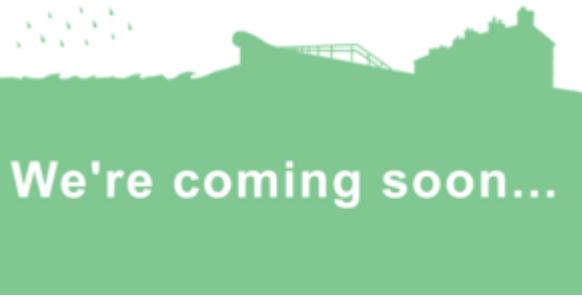
The Prime Minister re-emphasised the UK's commitment to the wider Indo-Pacific region and looked forward to the first deployment of the HMS Queen Elizabeth carrier group to the region next year.

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[Research News at FCERM](#)

News story

FCERM Research newsletter



Research News is our annual newsletter. It's for anyone with a professional interest in flood and coastal erosion risk management.

From March 2021 you'll find articles on current research and development across our programme.

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