



ENGLISH-CHINESE CHINESE-ENGLISH NUCLEAR SECURITY GLOSSARY (2008)

The Chinese Scientists Group on Arms Control (CSGAC) of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament and the Committee on International Security and Arms Control (CISAC) of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences have been meeting for almost 20 years to discuss critical problems of nuclear arms control, nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear energy, and regional security issues, with the goal of reducing the possibility of nuclear weapons use and nuclear proliferation in the world.

At times during these rich and valuable exchanges there has been difficulty understanding terms across languages. With substantial and growing U.S. and Chinese efforts in nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, counter-proliferation, and the prevention of nuclear terrorism, it is important to understand English and Chinese terms in these subject areas. In cases where terms are clearly different the English and Chinese speakers need to be aware that the term may have alternative or ambiguous meanings or usages in the other language.

At the request of the U.S. Department of Energy, CSGAC and CISAC conducted a joint project to produce an English - Chinese Chinese - English glossary of nuclear security terms to serve as a valuable resource to governments, academia, and others in the international security community. The glossary is intended to reduce the likelihood of misunderstandings and remove barriers to progress in exchanges and diplomatic, cooperative, or other activities where unambiguous understanding of these topics is essential. Subgroups from CSGAC and CISAC worked for more than a year to develop the final glossary, which consists of approximately 1200 mutually agreed upon terms. The glossary is available as a printed bilingual English and Chinese text and a PDF at www.nap.edu. It can also be accessed online at: http://www7.nationalacademies.org/cisac/Glossary_CISAC.html. The online version is designed to be searchable and sortable by English term, Chinese term (pinyin) and category.

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF TERMS

The majority of the terms in the glossary are simply paired with the corresponding term in the other language. The Chinese and English committees decided that no definition was needed and were able to agree on an appropriate translation.

Some terms required further explanation, since it was clear that although there might be a single meaning in one language, there were several possible options in the other language. For these terms, there is a common definition that is translated in both English and Chinese.

Other terms have different meanings even within a single language and are used in different contexts to describe different objects, actions, or concepts. For these cases CSGAC and CISAC felt they needed to include several of the definitions that might be encountered where the term is used, for example, in military or diplomatic circles.

SOURCES USED

Where possible, definitions were taken from reputable preexisting sources in authoritative texts from international organizations or preexisting glossaries. CSGAC and CISAC gave preference to international documents, then to official governmental documents, and then to organizations or references of some standing such as the National Academy of Sciences, the Chinese Arms Control and Disarmament Handbook, the Chinese National Defense Science and Technology Dictionary-Nuclear Energy, and similar sources.

FUTURE PLANS

Because terminology continues to evolve, CSGAC and CISAC expect that an expanded edition of the text will be produced in the future. The goal is to update the online version as routinely as possible as the scope of interaction increases and clarifications are suggested and agreed to. This will be done in a transparent fashion so that users can see the changes and updates alongside the original version.

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For More Information

Copies of the *English-Chinese Chinese-English Nuclear Security Glossary* (2008) are available from the National Academy Press; call (800)624-6242 or (202)334-3313 (in the Washington metropolitan area), or visit the NAP website at www.nap.edu. The searchable online version is available at: http://www7.nationalacademies.org/cisac/Glossary_CISAC.html. For more information on the project, contact staff at (202) 334-3975 or visit the Policy and Global Affairs website at www.nationalacademies.org/pga.