

TECHNOLOGY NEWS | Mon Oct 10, 2016 | 10:39am EDT

IAEA chief: Nuclear power plant was disrupted by cyber attack



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Yukiya Amano smiles as he waits for a board of governors meeting to begin at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna, Austria June 6, 2016. REUTERS/Heinz-Peter Bader

By **Andrea Shalal** | BERLIN

A nuclear power plant became the target of a disruptive cyber attack two to three years ago, and there is a serious threat of militant attacks on such plants, the head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said on Monday.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director Yukiya Amano also cited a case in which an individual tried to smuggle a small amount of highly enriched uranium about four years ago that could have been used to build a so-called "dirty bomb".

"This is not an imaginary risk," Amano told Reuters and a German newspaper during a visit to Germany that included a meeting with Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

"This issue of cyber attacks on nuclear-related facilities or activities should be taken very seriously. We never know if we know everything or if it's the tip of the iceberg."

Amano declined to give details of either incident, but said the cyber attack had caused "some disruption" at the plant, although it did not prove to be very serious since the plant did not have to shut down its operations. He said he had not previously discussed

IAEA chief: Nuclear power plant was disrupted by cyber attack

"This actually happened and it caused some problems," he said, adding while the plant did not have to shut down, it "needed to take some precautionary measures."

He said the attack was disruptive, not destructive, a term used to refer to incidents like the 2014 attack that destroyed data on computers of Sony Corp's Sony Pictures

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-nuclear-cyber-idUSKCN12A10C>

TRENDING STORIES

- 1 **Trump trails Clinton by 8 points after tape scandal, debate: Reuters/Ipsos**
- 2 **U.S. sees mounting evidence of Houthi role in strike on U.S. warship**

PICTURES Samsung slashes third quarter profit estimate by a third after pulling plug

Entertainment and rendered some of its internal networks inoperable.

Concerns about cyber attacks on nuclear sites have grown in recent years after the emergence of computer malware that can be used to attack industrial controls. The issue flared again after Belgian media reported that the suicide bombers who killed 32 people in Brussels on March 22 originally looked into attacking a nuclear installation.

Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co Ltd, which operates 23 nuclear reactors in South Korea, said in 2014 it was beefing up cyber security after non-critical data was stolen from its computer systems, although reactor operations were not at risk.

In April, German utility RWE increased its security after its Gundremmingen nuclear power plant was found to be infected with computer viruses. The company said they did not appear to have posed a threat to operations.

Security experts say blowing up a nuclear reactor is beyond the skills of militant groups, but the nuclear industry has some vulnerabilities that could be exploited.

ALSO IN TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Amazon challenges Apple and Spotify with new music streaming service

Samsung slashes third quarter profit estimate by a third after pulling plug on Note 7

Amano said the U.N. agency was helping countries increase cyber and overall nuclear security through training and a detailed database that included information from 131 countries, and by providing them with radiation detection devices.

Since 2010, the IAEA said it had trained over 10,000 people in nuclear security, including police and border guards, and has given countries more than 3,000 mobile phone-sized instruments for detecting nuclear and other radioactive material.

Amano flagged the issue at an IAEA cyber security conference in June 2015, and said it will be key topic at a broader nuclear security summit in Vienna in December.

(Reporting by Andrea Shalal; editing by Mark Heinrich)

NEXT IN TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Sony enters virtual reality race with PlayStation VR headset



TOKYO Sony Corp will join the race for virtual reality (VR) dominance on Thursday with the \$399 PlayStation VR, a headset the Japanese electronics group hopes will beat pricier rivals and revive its reputation as a maker of must-have gadgets.

Apple to set up R&D center in Shenzhen, bolster China ties



HONG KONG Apple Inc will set up a research and development center in China's manufacturing metropolis Shenzhen, the U.S. tech giant said on Wednesday, as the firm looks to spur growth in the world's second largest economy amid growing competition.

MORE FROM REUTERS

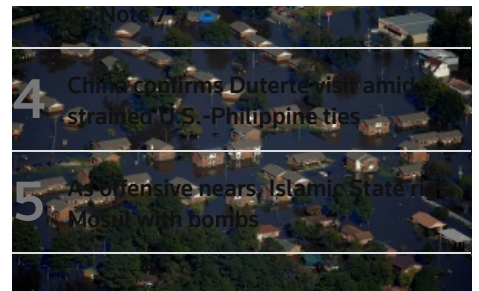
FROM AROUND THE WEB

IAEA chief: Nuclear power plant was disrupted by cyber attack

Follow Reuters:

SPONSORED CONTENT

Powered by Taboola



Pictures of the day

SPONSORED TOPICS

TRENDING STORIES

- 1 Trump trails Clinton by 8 points after tape scandal, debate: Reuters/Ipsos
- 2 U.S. sees mounting evidence of Houthi role in strike on U.S. warship
- 3 Samsung slashes third quarter profit estimate by a third after pulling plug

Subscribe: Feeds | Newsletters | Podcasts | Apps

Reuters is the news and media division of Thomson Reuters. Thomson Reuters is the world's largest international multimedia news agency, providing investing news, world news, business news, technology news, headline news, small business news, news alerts, personal finance, stock market, and critical financial news. Reuters.com, video, mobile, and interactive television platforms. Learn more about Thomson Reuters products:

EIKON

Information, analytics and exclusive news on financial markets - delivered in an intuitive desktop and mobile interface

ELEKTRON

Everything you need to empower your workflow and enhance your enterprise data management

WORLD-CHECK

Screen for heightened risk individual and entities globally to help uncover hidden risks in business relationships and human networks

WESTLAW

Build the strongest argument relying on authoritative content, attorney-editor expertise, and industry defining technology

ONESOURCE

The most comprehensive solution for managing your complex and ever-expanding tax and compliance needs

CHECKPOINT

The industry leader for online information for tax, accounting and finance professionals

4 China confirms Duterte visit amid strained U.S.-Philippine ties

5 As offensive nears, Islamic State rigs Mosul with bombs

All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. [See here for a complete list](#) of exchanges and delays.

© 2016 Reuters. All Rights Reserved. | [Site Feedback](#) | [Corrections](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Advertising Guidelines](#) | [AdChoices](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

This ad is supporting your extension Downloads - Your Download Box: [More info](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Hide on this page](#)

TRENDING **STORIES**

- 1** Trump trails Clinton by 8 points after tape scandal, debate: Reuters/Ipsos
- 2** U.S. sees mounting evidence of Houthi role in strike on U.S. warship
- 3** Samsung slashes third quarter profit estimate by a third after pulling plug

IAEA chief: Nuclear power plant was disrupted by cyber attack