

# PSU educator attends meeting in Orient

By NAN CRYSTAL ARENS  
Collegian Staff Writer

The University's director for the Limerick Community Education Program was one of two American nuclear science educators to attend conferences on nuclear energy education in Japan and Korea earlier this month.

Lanier H. Schlegel said one conference held in Tokyo, Japan, titled the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy Education, focused on the status of the American nuclear industry and programs to educate the American public on nuclear issues.

Timothy DeVries, an energy education programs consultant from Crystal Lake, Ill., was the other American educator who attended the conferences.

"The Japanese were interested in Three Mile Island and the kinds of programs we presented to the community," Schlegel said. "This was of interest to the Japanese because they don't have programs of this type."

Forty Japanese, including educators, representatives from industry and the government, attended the conference, Schlegel said.

He said the Japanese seem to accept nuclear power because they recognize the need for electrical generation, but the public is ignorant about the facts of nuclear science and radiation, Schlegel said.

Schlegel said he opened the conference in Japan with a talk on nuclear power generation, the TMI accident, nuclear waste processing and environmental pollution.

Jim Shillenn, coordinator of the University's Energy Technology Projects, said "We're very, very happy that (Schlegel) was able to go to Korea and Japan . . . to pass on some of the things we are doing to educate the public."

Energy Technology Projects is a division of the department of nuclear engineering that prepares energy educational programs for local schools, youth groups and the public, Shillenn said.

At the conference, Schlegel also discussed his work as a nuclear science educator in Limerick, Pa. — near the site of the Limerick nuclear power plant — where 200,000 people live within a 10-mile radius of the plant, making good nuclear education especially important.

Schlegel said that during part of his presentation he described a program in the Limerick area where radiation detection equipment is made available to nuclear science teachers by the Philadelphia Electric Co.

"This raised a lot of eyebrows in Japan," he added. "The Japanese were surprised that industry was loaning out \$10,000 worth of equipment to an individual teacher."

Schlegel also presented nuclear science textbooks, slides and other educational resources in an effort to spur nuclear science education in Japan, he said.

No nuclear science textbook is available in Japan and equipment for science classrooms is very difficult to obtain. Public information of nuclear science and radiation is also almost nonexistent in Japan, he added.

Poor nuclear science education in Japan is partially caused by the poor image of nuclear technology in general, he said.

Schlegel said the Japanese word for "radiation" translates to the English equivalent of "nasty."

"The only thing the (Japanese) public knows about atomic energy is the tremendous devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and that's not a pretty picture," Schlegel said.

He said although most of the Japanese educators thought more public information was needed, government officials were more reluctant to institute nuclear science information.

The Japanese educators are seeking to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy through education, Schlegel said.

Following the week-long conference in Japan, Schlegel and DeVries attended another week of meetings in Seoul, South Korea.

Fifteen educators attended the conference, titled the Status of Education on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in the United States and the Republic of Korea, Schlegel said.



AP Laserphoto  
Fourteen-year-old Adrian Walton, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, near Manchester, England, being visited in the hospital by his parents. Adrian was given the heart of a nine-year-old boy on Saturday night by surgeon Magdi Yacoub.

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