

The building blocks of collaboration

COG workshops, peer teams and meetings

CANDU Owners Group (COG) hosts more than 150 forums, peer groups, technical committee meetings and workshops per year covering a range of topics. These gatherings strengthen connections, support member collaboration and help move the CANDU industry forward

Information exchange is a critical piece of infrastructure in an industry where knowledge management is critical to success.

Throughout the global COVID-19 pandemic, COG's collaboration infrastructure has proven resilient, with a continued busy schedule of forum, peer group meetings and workshops carried out on virtual platforms to ensure the continuity of critical knowledge transfer and OPEX sharing.

Recent gatherings have focused on topical industry issues such as: radioactive waste of future SMRs in Canada; CANDU asset preservation through improved chemistry performance; incorporating Indigenous knowledge into environmental assessments and emergency response preparedness fundamentals, among others.

COG members and participants use the lessons learned and good practices gained from participation in these meetings to improve plant safety, operations and performance. Each meeting or workshop focuses on specific subject areas.

In some cases, the meetings focus on transfer of knowledge, with relevant research, reports and recent experiences shared to build knowledge on the latest trends and industry updates. In others, it is about creating new knowledge by working together on research, projects and strengthening human performance through new processes and behaviours.

Collectively, the work of the forums and peer groups create the foundations for continuous improvement and innovation to strengthen CANDU operations, as well as development in new technologies of common interest.

"COG's forums and peer groups are comprised of senior executives and station managers from across our membership," says John Sowagi, COG Information Exchange Director.

"The forums and peer groups are interconnected and constantly communicating with one another, funneling information back and forth and strengthening alignment within these organizations and amongst CANDU utilities. This ensures CANDU plants and the broader industry are all pulling in the same direction."

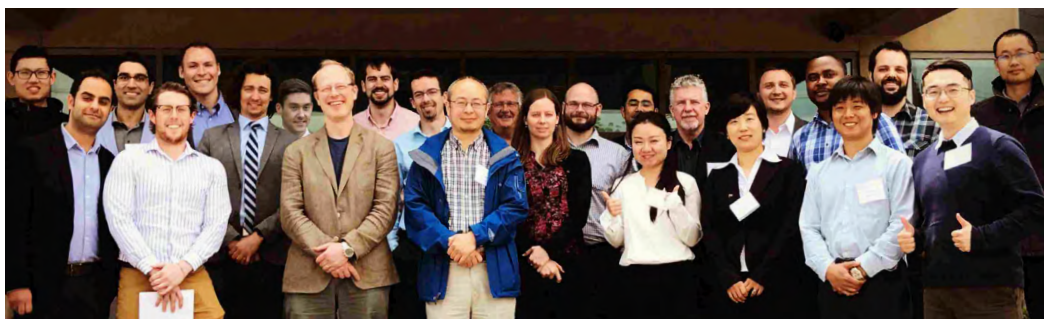
Nuclear organizations tend to be physically isolated by nature, with plants spread across vast geographies. COVID-19 has exacerbated this. Through virtual technologies, COG has served to maintain the connection across its membership.

And, by connecting senior leadership forums with the peer groups through these meetings, it helps connect organizational leaders with on-site personnel to ensure alignment between strategic decision-making and in-plant execution.

Similarly, an on-going peer group effectiveness initiative (see accompanying feature), is ensuring COG peer groups reflect the priorities of industry and each group is progressing toward aligned goals and objectives.

[Click here](#) to view a full listing of COG forums, peer groups and committees.

For the full list of COG events, [click here](#) to visit the event calendar on COGonline.org.



COG's forums, peer teams and working groups contribute to the creation of new technologies and processes in R&D and joint projects, supporting the transfer of knowledge to other stations and new generations.