

ΣΕΜΙΝΑΡΙΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟΥ ΚΒΑΝΤΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΥΠΛΟΚΟΤΗΤΑΣ &
ΝΑΝΟΤΕΧΝΟΛΟΓΙΑΣ/ CCQCN SEMINAR

Thursday, 16 July 2015

11:00-12:30

3rd Floor Seminar Room

70 years after Trinity: A disaster waiting to happen

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Abstract

70 years ago, on July the 16th, at 6:00 AM in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico, took place the first atomic explosion in history. It was called the Trinity test. The atom bomb was possible thanks to something unusual; most of the most brilliant scientist of the XX century working together with a common objective: the creation of the A-bomb, a device so powerful that not only would end the WWII but also might dissuade mankind from starting future conflicts.

However, the A-bomb was quickly followed by the H-bomb and by the most dangerous arms race in History, as was foreseen by some of the creators of the first atomic bombs.

The nuclear threat is nowadays silent but still a serious concern.

The talk aims to review in short the history of the scientist that worked in both sides, US and USSR, with a dissemination purpose, omitting technical details concerning nuclear physics.

The atom bomb was much more than a new super weapon or a scientific achievement, it changed everything.

Talking about the Trinity test Robert J. Oppenheimer said it better: "We knew the world would not be the same. A few people laughed, a few people cried. Most people were silent. I remembered the line from the Hindu scripture, the Bhagavad Gita; Vishnu is trying to persuade the Prince that he should do his duty and, to impress him, takes on his multi-armed form and says, 'Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.' I suppose we all thought that, one way or another".

