



**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

**TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY**

**PROJECT RER/0/027  
Strengthening Capabilities for Nuclear Knowledge Preservation**

**PROSPECTUS**

**FOR A**

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON**

**MAKING KNOWLEDGE WORK - NUCLEAR ENGLISH FOR  
UNIVERSITY TEACHERS**

**23-27 June 2008  
Kaunas, Lithuania**

## PROSPECTUS

- TITLE: Regional Workshop on Making Knowledge Work - Nuclear English for University Teachers
- PLACE: Kaunas University of Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania
- DATE: 23-27 June 2008
- DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: **21 April 2008**
- ORGANIZER: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in cooperation with the Government of Lithuania through the World Nuclear Association and the Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania.
- TARGET COUNTRIES: European Region
- PARTICIPATION: The workshop is open to up to 35 participants from the invited Member States in the region of Europe. *All participants from European Union Member States (and the Russian Federation) are encouraged to attend the meeting at no cost to the IAEA.*
- PARTICIPANTS: University teachers working in the nuclear domain.
- LANGUAGE: English
- PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP: The purposes of the workshop are:
- to provide a forum for university teachers working in the nuclear domain to exchange good practices and acquire new techniques in teaching English for specific purposes,
  - to familiarize participants with the content and methodology of *Nuclear English* (WNU Press), a leading textbook for learners of English in the nuclear field, and
  - to allow participants to further improve their knowledge of the associated nuclear technology and nuclear knowledge management terminology.
- NATURE OF THE WORKSHOP: The workshop will cover some of the important methodological, linguistic as well as classroom management issues associated with English language teaching, notably in the context of teaching English for specific purposes. Focused *Nuclear English* sessions will explore the terminology used by nuclear professionals, as well as ways of maximizing the learning potential of this educational resource. Participants will furthermore develop an overview of nuclear knowledge management and nuclear technology, including its applications in different fields.
- The workshop will take the form of presentations led by experienced English language teaching practitioners, both native speaker and non-native speaker, and invited nuclear professionals. There will also be workshops on aspects of English language teaching where participants will be expected to be actively involved in discussions and share best practice. A technical tour to laboratories at Kaunas University of Technology is envisaged to provide first-hand experience of nuclear technology.
- The workshop tutors will be experienced English language teachers with extensive knowledge of the nuclear domain. Further inputs will be provided by English teachers working with leading nuclear organizations.
- APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Nominations may be submitted on the standard IAEA application form for meetings. Completed forms should be endorsed by and returned through the official channels established. They must be received by the International Atomic Energy Agency, P.O.

Box 100, A-1400 Vienna, Austria, not later than **21 April 2008**. Nominations received after this date or applications which have not been routed through one of the aforementioned official channels cannot be considered. Advanced nominations by facsimile (+43-1-26007), or e-mail ([official.mail@iaea.org](mailto:official.mail@iaea.org) and [A.Faris@iaea.org](mailto:A.Faris@iaea.org)) are welcomed. The facsimile/e-mail should contain the following basic information about the candidate: name, age, academic qualifications, and current position including exact nature of duties carried out, proficiency in English and full working address including telephone/facsimile numbers.

ADMINISTRATIVE  
& FINANCIAL  
ARRANGEMENTS:

Nominating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the selected candidates and will at that time be given full details on the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

During their attendance at the workshop, participants from countries eligible to receive technical assistance will be provided by the IAEA with a stipend sufficient to cover the cost of their accommodation, food, and minor incidental expenses. The IAEA will also provide the participants with a round-trip air ticket, economy/excursion class, from their home countries to Kaunas, Lithuania and return. Shipment of accumulated workshop materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the workshop do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the workshop, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in nominating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Since the 1960s, English has emerged as the dominant international lingua franca, penetrating all continents and all levels of society. Today, speakers of English as a second language run into billions, while English has assumed the importance of a basic skill alongside literacy and numeracy in education systems worldwide.

The global nuclear industry has not escaped the trend towards greater use of English, so that today, international nuclear conferences and training courses are likely to be held in this language. The trend has been particularly rapid in the last ten years, to which a major contributor has been the process of rationalization that has taken place within the industry. For example, in 2001, Framatome and Siemens merged their nuclear operations in France, Germany and the US to form Framatome ANP; the new group adopted English as the operating language.

The new linguistic environment in the nuclear industry, where command of English is expected at many fora, presents important challenges. In Central and Eastern Europe, for example, many nuclear professionals attended school and university at a time when English did not form a part of the curriculum. Younger staff meanwhile may be conversant with the rules of English grammar, but have never had the opportunity to develop their language skills. English teachers at nuclear organizations in these countries therefore provide an important service, enabling their students to play a more active role in the international nuclear community.

In response to the need for a new educational tool for students and teachers of English within the nuclear industry, the World Nuclear University Press in 2005 published *Nuclear English – Language Skills for a Globalizing Industry*, the first English for Specific Purposes (ESP) textbook in the field. The workshop provides dedicated material relevant to learners' needs helping to improve the transfer time to a working knowledge of English.

Since publication, the book's contents have become standard coursework at prestigious institutions worldwide, including the IAEA, WANO, Instituto Balseiro, and the Swedish Nuclear Training and Safety Centre. In 2007, the World Nuclear University successfully ran intensive courses at the Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute and the Romanian Nuclear Regulator (CNCAN), the latter supported by the IAEA's Technical Cooperation fund. A special session on Nuclear English was organized during the annual school of Managing Nuclear Knowledge, Trieste, Italy in 2007.

*Nuclear English* was developed on the basis of a thorough needs analysis and extensive piloting involving learners and teachers in many countries. It consists of 12 units each covering a different aspect of the nuclear fuel cycle or a relevant topic such as non-proliferation, safety and the use of radioisotopes in medicine. A technical background is not a requirement for the workshop; however, learners need to have reached an intermediate level of English. The main objectives of the workshop are to increase learner proficiency within the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing; in particular, the workshop focuses on the situations encountered in professional contexts, such as presentations and meetings. An accompanying CD provides recordings of interviews with nuclear professionals, featuring a variety of accents.

### Workshop Content

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The workshop will take the form of presentations led by experienced English language teaching practitioners and invited nuclear professionals. There will also be workshops on aspects of English language teaching where participants will be expected to be actively involved in discussions and share best practice. A technical tour to laboratories at Kaunas University of Technology is envisaged to provide first-hand experience of nuclear technology.

Specific elements addressed during the workshop include:

- Workshops on teaching the four skills,
- Workshop on managing monolingual classes,
- Brief review of language classroom strategies and technologies applied since the 1960s,
- Preparing learning materials for use in the classroom or for outside,
- Presentations on nuclear knowledge management and the use of nuclear technology and its application.