

Fact Sheet on The International Nuclear Information System (INIS)

What are the issues?

Access to *reliable, trustworthy nuclear information resources*, the need to ensure the provision of relevant nuclear information services to *end users in Member States*, and the need to have *skilled and knowledgeable workers* in these fields, are among the challenges that Member States are facing in order to ensure the smooth implementation of their national nuclear programmes and activities.

The International Nuclear Information System (INIS) is an international cooperative and a reliable nuclear information system in the nuclear field. Established by Member States with over 35 year of experience, and operated by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in close collaboration with its Members, it currently has 117 Member States and 23 International Organizations. INIS processes most of the world's scientific and technical literature on the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology. INIS maintains a bibliographic database which currently contains over 2.7 million abstracted and indexed records and a comprehensive collection of over 700,000 full text documents which are not easily available through commercial channels.

This makes *INIS the world's most comprehensive and leading information source in the nuclear field*.

What services does INIS provide to Member States?

- *Assists Member States in building the capacity* of their national and regional INIS Centres by *transferring knowledge* and know-how in information handling and processing so that the recipient INIS Centres become self-sufficient in providing relevant information *support to national nuclear programmes and activities*;
- Assists Member States in ensuring the *management and preservation* of nuclear information and knowledge needed for the effective and safe use of nuclear energy and its applications for *future generations*;
- INIS serves the *information needs of both developing and developed countries*, meeting the information needs of IAEA Member States in the nuclear field and covering the following subjects:

Nuclear energy, including nuclear engineering; Nuclear instrumentation and the nuclear fuel cycle; Nuclear safety; Radioactive waste management; Fusion research and technology; Life sciences and environmental aspects; Safeguards, non-proliferation; Isotopes and nuclear applications in earth sciences; Agriculture; Biology; Medicine and industry; Radiation protection; Nuclear physics; Nuclear chemistry; Economic, legal and social aspects.

Benefits to Member States:

Member States enjoy:

- Being part of a reliable, well established, mechanism to *preserve their knowledge* in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology;
- Access to a *trusted nuclear information reservoir* for current and future generations;
- *Visibility of their national literature* and achievements worldwide;
- Preserving national nuclear competence for *future generations*;
- *Fostering research & development* in the nuclear field.

Recent success stories:

TC projects to enhance the national INIS Centres in:

- **Egypt**
- **Tajikistan**
- **Azerbaijan**

These INIS Centres have already started providing relevant *nuclear information services to researchers and engineers* within their national boundaries to support their country's participation in all aspects of nuclear science and technology. In addition, *national achievements in the nuclear field have been documented to ensure easy access for future generations.*

Regional INIS Course in Damascus 2006:

Syria hosted a Regional Training Course on INIS, and participants were staff members of national INIS Centres and universities. This Course provided hands-on training in all aspects of INIS operations and activities and was the first course to be conducted in Arabic.

National INIS Seminar in Niger 2006:

A two-day national INIS Seminar was held in Niger. Twenty participants from different institutes in the agriculture, mining, geology and medicine sectors, as well as universities, attended the event. The Seminar provided an introduction to INIS and highlighted the benefits of active participation.

How to benefit:

Member States that have not yet established a national INIS Centre, or that need to provide additional support to these Centres, are encouraged to contact the Technical Cooperation Department of the International Atomic Energy Agency to initiate a national or regional project.

For more information please contact your IAEA TC Country Officer or:

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