

## **Nuclear Knowledge Management - Role of IAEA and its Technical Cooperation Programme**

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IAEA has an excellent record in promoting the peaceful and safe use of the atom for socio-economic development. After nearly half a century, the Agency has acquired considerable expertise in both its promotional and regulatory activities. Recent years have seen, on the one hand, a greater emphasis being placed on the strengthening of safeguards, safety and security under the Agency's regular programme, while the promotional activities are somewhat being affected because of public disenchantment in the West, as well as donor fatigue and unwillingness to freely share know-how. Early euphoria for the development of peaceful uses of the nuclear programme seems to have evaporated. The Agency has to continue to strive to rectify this situation and play its leadership role.

In this regard, there is a growing awareness to adequately develop Nuclear Knowledge Management (NKM) practices to face new challenges, resulting from retirement of professionals who pioneered national programmes, difficulties in replacement because of younger generation not opting for nuclear careers, and generally diminishing opportunities for nuclear education. Furthermore, aging nuclear facilities require special care and management for their operation and ultimate decommissioning and safe disposal.

NKM as a tool for preservation and maintaining competence in nuclear technology should be developed and shared with MSs through Technical Cooperation Programme. There is a need to transform INIS from merely a database of published literature to an effective knowledge base service.

Member States should know how to utilize the nuclear knowledge to determine where nuclear techniques have an edge. Valuable material is available with the Agency in the form of various reports which can be a good source to develop a rich knowledge base for dissemination. The Agency and the MSs should know what they need to know to build and share nuclear knowledge for a self-reliant and sustainable national nuclear programme.