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**KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND NETWORKING FOR ENHANCING NUCLEAR SAFETY**

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Striving for innovative solutions to enhance efficiency of programme delivery and a wider outreach of its nuclear safety activities, the IAEA has developed an Integrated Safety Approach as a platform for linking its safety related statutory functions and its many related activities. The approach recognizes the vital importance of effective management of the knowledge base and builds on the integration between the Agency's safety standards and all aspects of the provision for their application, including peer reviews and technical meetings to share lessons learned.

The IAEA is using knowledge management techniques to develop process flows, map safety knowledge and to promote knowledge sharing. The first practical application was the establishment of a knowledge base related to ageing and long-term operation of nuclear power plants.

The IAEA is also promoting and facilitating the establishment of regional nuclear and radiation safety networks to preserve existing knowledge and expertise as well as to strengthen sharing and creation of new knowledge in these fields. Prominent examples are the Asian Nuclear Safety Network established in the frame of the Agency's Programme on the Safety of Nuclear Installations in South East Asia, Pacific and Far East Countries, and the Ibero-American Radiation Safety Network in the frame of the Ibero-American Forum of Nuclear Regulators. Results to date are most encouraging and suggest that this pioneer work should be extended to other regions and eventually to a global safety network.

Responsive to the need of Member States, the IAEA Secretariat has prepared and made available a large number of up-to-date training packages in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, using the Agency's safety standards as a basis. It has also provided instruction to trainers in Member States on the use of these modules. This ensures that the material is properly used and that the Agency receives feedback so that training services and material are improved and kept current. This approach adds a new dimension for transferring knowledge as compared to conventional training methods.

Recognizing that nuclear safety and security are truly global and transboundary issues, the IAEA has put forward the vision of a global nuclear safety and security regime that provides for the protection of people and the environment from effects of ionizing radiation, the minimization of the likelihood of accidents that could endanger life and property, and effective mitigation of the effects of any such events. The IAEA will pursue knowledge management and networking as fundamental elements for achieving this vision.