

# **Informal Technical Briefing for Member States on the PUI**

## **23 March 2012**

### **Opening Remarks**

#### **Introduction**

I would like to welcome you all to this informal technical briefing on the IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI). This is the first time the Secretariat is holding such a briefing on the PUI and as such is intended to serve as an opportunity to share information on Agency activities related to this important Initiative.

I will start the session by providing an overview of the PUI which will be followed by two joint presentations by the departments of Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Sciences and Applications and Technical Cooperation who will present more detailed information on some of the projects funded through the PUI. One presentation will focus on nuclear energy- related projects, and the other on nuclear sciences and applications- related projects. Then I will open the floor for any questions and comments you might have.

#### **Overview and Status**

The Peaceful Uses Initiative was launched in 2010 by a Member State and has become an important vehicle to raise extrabudgetary contributions for IAEA activities in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. The Director General, in his statements at the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> General Conferences, welcomed this “important initiative” and encouraged all countries in a position to do so to contribute to the PUI. Similarly, the TC resolutions adopted at the past two General Conferences welcomed the IAEA PUI. Furthermore, the latest TC resolution adopted at the 55<sup>th</sup> General Conference requested the Secretariat to continue to work with all Member States in matching contributions to Member States’ needs.

Several Member States have already supported this Initiative through financial contributions. Total contributions made so far stand at around 22 million Euros. These include contributions from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Sweden and the USA. I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the generous contributions.

So far, over 60 projects have received funding through the PUI benefitting over 100 Member States, mostly developing countries.

#### **Benefits of the PUI**

Additional resources made available through the PUI have served to enhance the Agency’s ability to fulfil its priorities and statutory responsibilities and to meet the needs of Member States. Extrabudgetary contributions made through the PUI have been used to support a wide variety of Agency activities aimed at promoting broad development goals in Member States, such as in the areas of food security, water resource management, human health and nuclear power infrastructure development, many of which would have remained unfunded otherwise.

Also it should be stressed that the PUI did not create a parallel mechanism for programme delivery and does not divert funds from the TCF. Instead, additional extrabudgetary resources made available through the PUI have served to complement and reinforce the technical cooperation activities of the Agency, adding to the benefits flowing to Member States, by funding “footnote/a” activities and projects.

In addition to expanding and strengthening existing services, PUI funds have allowed the Agency to develop new services and to exercise greater flexibility in responding to shifting priorities of Member States as well as to unexpected needs or emergency events. A good case in point is in the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, when PUI contributions from a number of Member States were rapidly mobilized to fund an off-cycle TC project. The project was developed in support of a marine benchmark study on the possible impact of the Fukushima radioactive releases in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **Thematic Areas**

You can see here [slide] the thematic areas of Agency activities that have been supported by PUI contributions to date and the corresponding amounts received for each of the areas. This provides a snapshot in terms of what the donors have provided thus far through the PUI. Just to highlight a few areas, in “water and environment” we have received around 2.7 million Euros, in “food and agriculture” around 2 million, in “human health” 1.2 million, in “nuclear power infrastructure development” around 4 million and in “nuclear safety” about 1.9 million Euros.

### **Process and mechanism**

PUI- funded projects are implemented by the Department of Technical Cooperation as well as by the technical departments such as the Department of Nuclear Energy and the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications. As you see here [slide], out of the total PUI contributions committed to specific projects, 46% has been received for unfunded TC projects and activities, and 54% has been received for unfunded activities under the Agency’s regular budget that are managed principally through technical departments. The latter undertakings could not have been implemented without support from the PUI. They serve to enhance the Agency’s technical competence and also as pilots and incubators for future TC projects.

In response to requests from several Member States, the Secretariat has compiled, thematic “packages” for PUI funding, in line with the Medium Term Strategy and the Agency’s approved programme, with a number of projects that are unfunded or need extrabudgetary funds to be successfully completed. Projects from these packages as well as all unfunded TC footnote/a projects are available for PUI funding. The Secretariat has so far made these packages available to interested donors upon their request.

### **Review and implementation**

PUI-funded projects are at varying stages of implementation as contributions have been received at different points in time, until very recently. Based on the request of donor Member States, the Agency is providing annual progress reports that detail outputs, milestones and budget updates.

Given the high importance the Secretariat attaches to the PUI and as the PUI requires cross-departmental activities, the Director General’s Office for Policy (DGOP) is charged with the

responsibility of coordinating PUI related activities. Any enquiry related to the PUI can be made to DGOP. [Contact points are Ms Insook Kim and Mr Shota Kamishima].

In closing, I would like to reiterate the important role the PUI has played in raising extrabudgetary contributions for Agency activities in the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Additional resources from the PUI have bolstered the Agency's ability to respond to Member States' needs and requests through expanded services, and also to respond to unforeseen events and changing priorities of Member States. I think one of the advantages of the PUI is flexibility and agility.

We thank those Member States that have supported the PUI. I would like again to encourage all Member States in a position to do so to support this important Initiative through contributions, either financial or in-kind.

We hope that this briefing will help Member States enhance their understanding of the PUI. The Secretariat stands ready to provide further information on Agency activities related to the PUI. Also, as a measure of transparency, we have provided at the back of this room, a comprehensive list of all projects that have received contributions through the PUI.

I will now turn over to my colleagues from TC and NA who will jointly make a presentation on PUI projects related to nuclear sciences and applications.