The IAEA technical cooperation programme: An overview

Addressing major development challenges

Some 80% of IAEA Member States do not have nuclear power. What drives countries to become members of the International Atomic Energy Agency? In many cases, major development challenges related to human health, food security, water availability, inadequate energy supply and environmental degradation are key motivating factors.

Building capacity for the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology

IAEA technical cooperation seeks to build sustainable human and institutional capacity in Member States, so that they can safely utilize nuclear technologies to address these challenges. In this way the IAEA contributes to national, regional and international development, and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Combining technical and developmental competencies

The IAEA technical cooperation (TC) programme rests on fifty years of experience and collaboration with Member States and other partners, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The programme is unique in the UN system, as it combines significant technical and developmental competencies.
All Member States are eligible for support, although in practice technical cooperation activities tend to focus on the needs and priorities of less developed countries. IAEA Member States identify their needs and priorities at the national level, using Country Programme Frameworks as a strategic medium term planning tool.

2012 overview

In 2012, the TC programme supported 125 countries, 31 of which are least developed countries. The programme disbursed €68.8 million in assistance to Member States through national, regional and interregional projects.

Areas of activity

TC programme areas include: human health and nutrition, agriculture and food security, water and the environment, nuclear power and energy planning, industrial applications and the promotion of nuclear safety and security. Support is delivered through fellowships and scientific visits, training courses, workshops and seminars, expert assistance, and the provision of equipment and materials.

Programme management and funding

The TC programme is developed and managed jointly by the Member States and the IAEA Secretariat. The programme is funded through voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund, extrabudgetary funding and government cost sharing, and in-kind support.

For more information on the IAEA technical cooperation programme, please visit www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation, or follow us on @iaeatc.

Contact: official.mail@iaea.org