

# Scientific Meetings

One of the main aims of the IAEA is to foster the exchange of scientific and technical information and one of the main ways of doing this is to convene international scientific meetings. They range from large international conferences bringing together several hundred scientists, smaller symposia attended by an average of 150 to 250 participants and seminars designed to instruct rather than inform, to smaller panels and study groups of 10 to 30 experts brought together to advise on a particular programme or to develop a set of regulations. The topics of these meetings cover every part of the Agency's activities and form a backbone of many of its programmes.

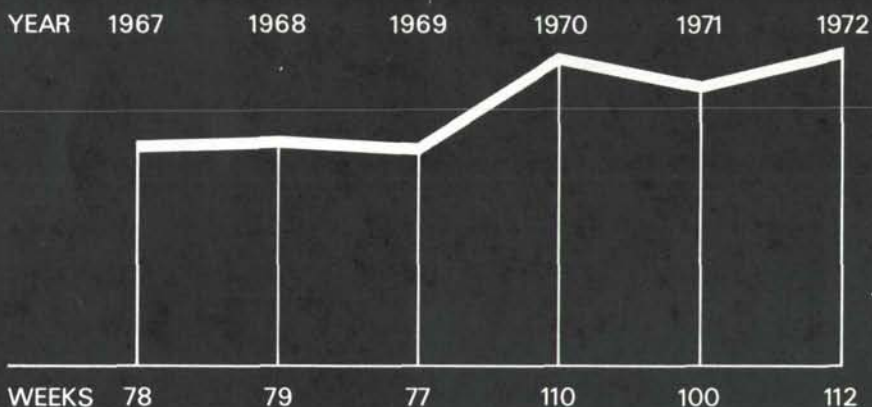
The larger meetings (conferences and symposia) are open to scientists or experts from all Member States and offer a unique opportunity to exchange views and experience on the latest work done in their special fields. Some 40 to 60 papers are presented and discussed. About 15 such meetings are held each year. The smaller meetings on the other hand are usually limited to a few selected participants, and the number of such meetings has risen to about 100 each year. The growth in this type of activity is illustrated by **Chart No. 1.**

By prompt publication of the papers presented and of the discussions they provoked, the meetings can reach far wider audiences than the persons who attend. The IAEA is today one of the world's principal publishers of scientific literature. Nearly 16,000 pages of papers of discussions presented at conferences and symposia were published in 1972. Another 3,600 pages of other reports and meetings were published by the IAEA in the same year. The four working languages (English, French, Spanish and Russian) are used both for interpreting at the meetings and in the publications.

Generally speaking, the IAEA's scientific meetings are designed to provide a service to the whole membership of the Agency, rather than to individual Member States. In the past most meetings, particularly those which had an advisory character, were held at Headquarters in Vienna. Between 1964 and 1971 Member States with advanced nuclear technology offered to host many of the Agency's scientific meetings. Since then more Member States on the threshold of nuclear development intensified their efforts in the nuclear field, and they too have expressed an interest to host some of these meetings. This of course enables a far bigger participation of experts from the host country and those in the vicinity, who are often faced with difficulty in getting sufficient foreign exchange to travel to distant locations in technically advanced countries. As the Director General has announced, it will be the policy of the Agency to hold an increasing number of the IAEA's meetings in the developing Member countries. This new trend can be seen in **Chart No.2.**

It is a general principle that when meetings are held away from Headquarters the host government will meet the additional costs that the IAEA must incur. However, the charge made to developing countries is only about half that required from the technically advanced Member States.

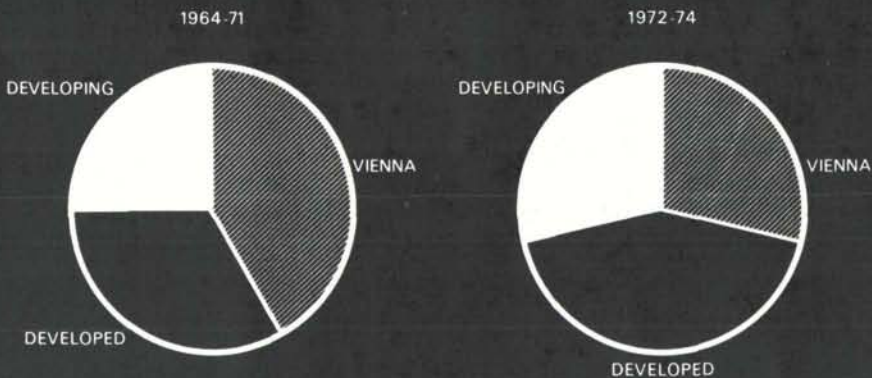
## INCREASE OF TOTAL NUMBER OF MEETINGS (PANELS ETC. INCLUDED) HELD BY THE AGENCY (in weeks)



In addition to the meetings shown in the chart, more of the smaller type of meetings are being held in developing countries. Last year 29 meetings were held in these countries compared with an average of 20 in previous years.

Another means of encouraging developing country participation in IAEA symposia is to help meet the travel costs of selected scientists. The funds which the IAEA has for this purpose are very small and are stretched to help as many as possible. In 1972 and 1973 a sum of \$55,000 was spent on travel grants to assist scientists from

## LOCATION OF CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA





A panel meeting on Tracer Techniques in Tropical Animal Production Studies was held in Djakarta in October 1972. Mr. H.L. Rollinson, the FAO representative in Indonesia is seen addressing the conference.

developing countries to attend conferences and symposia on subjects of their particular interest. The Agency plans to increase this type of assistance as the number of scientists from developing countries rises. In addition, in 1974 it is planned that 4 of the IAEA's 13 major symposia will be held in developing countries.

Another activity of importance to developing countries are the Research Co-ordination meetings. These are held periodically in relation to the various co-ordinated programmes of research sponsored by the Agency. The Agency bears the cost of attendance of one representative from each institute participating in the programme. The venue is established in accordance with the most central location in the region. It is the purpose of these meetings to enable the participants themselves to discuss in detail their research results, objectives, and future plans so as to ensure optimum co-ordination of effort in relation to the common research goal. Rice production and breeding, of major importance to many parts of the world, have been the subject of two series of research co-ordination meetings. The following table shows the location of these meetings:

1962	Manila (Philippines)	1969	New Delhi (India)
1964	Tokyo (Japan)	1970	Manila and Seoul (Rep. of Korea)
1965	Bangkok (Thailand)	1971	Djakarta and Los Baños (Indonesia and Philippines)
1966	Hong Kong and Manila		
1967	Taipei (China)	1972	Seoul
1968	Oiso (Japan)	1973	Bangkok and New Delhi

The major meetings scheduled for 1974 can be found in this Bulletin listed under "Forthcoming Conferences".