The Nuclear Law Institute was established by the IAEA in order to meet the increasing demand for legislative assistance by Member States.

Every year, the Institute offers intensive training for up to sixty lawyers in all areas of nuclear law and in drafting corresponding national legislation.

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Background
Nuclear energy may pose special risks to the health and safety of persons and to the environment. At the same time, nuclear energy holds significant benefits in a variety of fields – from medicine and agriculture to electricity production and industry. Its dual nature, combined with the complexity of nuclear science, explains why, from the earliest days of its development to its most modern uses, nuclear energy has been considered to require special legal arrangements, in order to ensure that it is safely and securely managed.

In light of the increasing number and complexity of the international instruments in the nuclear field, and in order to better meet the demand from Member States, the Office of Legal Affairs decided in 2011 to streamline its legislative assistance activities by establishing the Nuclear Law Institute (NLI), in cooperation with the Department of Technical Cooperation.

Following the positive feedback received with regard to the 2011 session, the Secretariat has decided to organize the NLI as an annual event.

Training objective
By the end of the training session, participants should have acquired a solid understanding of all aspects of nuclear law and be able to draft, amend or review national nuclear legislation.

Teaching methodology
Drawing on modern teaching methods based on interaction and practice, the NLI provides a combination of ‘impulse’ lectures covering the fundamentals of nuclear law, facilitated small group (so-called TOP) sessions focusing on the implementation of the information from the lectures and a number of legislative drafting exercises.

In addition, Special Sessions allow participants to gain in-depth knowledge of topics of specific interest.

An Issue Forum concludes the training session by allowing participants to present the results of a special project assigned to them during the course.

The learning process is complemented by printed and on-line material.

Programme
The NLI takes place over a two week period and addresses the following aspects of nuclear law:

- Nuclear safety (including transport of radioactive material)
- Nuclear security
- Safeguards and non-proliferation
- Nuclear trade
- Nuclear liability and insurance.

In addition, specific subjects are addressed in the context of the Special Sessions such as:

- Relationships between environmental law and nuclear law
- The law of the sea
- Transparency and stakeholder involvement
- Small modular reactors
- Nuclear safety culture
- Financial aspects of decommissioning.

Teaching staff
All lectures and presentations are delivered by well-known experts from the IAEA and other institutions.

Requirements
Participation in the NLI takes place within the framework of the relevant IAEA Technical Cooperation project. Participants are thus selected from among candidates nominated by Member States through the appropriate governmental channels. Applications submitted directly by candidates will not be considered.

Candidates should be legal experts or regulators employed by governments and relevant national agencies and involved in the drafting of nuclear related national legislation.

Candidates should have an excellent knowledge of English, including, as far as possible, legal terminology. Neither translation nor interpretation into any other language will be provided during the training session.

Application
Nominations to the NLI should be submitted online through the IAEA’s InTouch+ system at https://intouchplus.iaea.org/ITP/faces/main.jsf. In case this is not possible, nomination forms can be found under “Participating in a training course” at https://www.iaea.org/services/technical-cooperation-programme/how-to-participate. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the IAEA, through the official channels, i.e. the National Liaison Officer, by the designated deadline.

Cost and funding
Participation in the training session itself is free of charge. The IAEA will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of participants as per IAEA rules and practices.
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