RAISING AWARENESS, BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS, MOBILIZING RESOURCES FOR CANCER DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT: THE ROLE OF THE IAEA’S DIVISION OF PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR CANCER THERAPY

The IAEA works through its Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) and in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and other organizations working in the field of cancer, to provide a coordinated global response to support the implementation of comprehensive national cancer control programmes in low and middle income (LMI) IAEA Member States.

(Photograph: PACT/IAEA)

Over 30 countries worldwide do not have any radiotherapy machines. PACT, together with its partner organizations, aims to help patients gain access to life saving diagnostic tools, treatment and a better quality of life.
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The Virtual University for Cancer Control (VUCCnet) is an IAEA initiative launched in 2010 through PACT that helps to establish training and mentor networks within and amongst LMI countries. The initiative provides a web-based platform to make education materials more easily accessible and affordable for trainees. Today, in Ghana, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, most people diagnosed with cancer lose their battle with the disease. To be able to provide comprehensive cancer control for their national populations, these four countries are aiming to train 250 oncologists, over 8000 nurses, 2800 community health workers and other health professionals within the next decade. (Photo: PACT/IAEA)

On the occasion of the 58th IAEA General Conference, PACT organized a side event on the value of strategic partnerships in the fight against the global cancer epidemic. The event was attended by IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano, IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, Kwaku Aning, as well as distinguished delegates from the IAEA Member States and representatives of international organizations.

Tebogo Seokolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the IAEA (left), Mitsuro Kitano, Permanent Representative of Japan to the IAEA (left centre), Kwaku Aning, IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation (right centre), Yukiya Amano, IAEA Director General (right). (Photo: O. Yusuf/IAEA)
The IAEA’s Division of Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy raises awareness, builds innovative partnerships and mobilizes much needed resources to fight cancer. Since 2004, more than 60 countries have benefited from an imPACT mission. Furthermore, ten Member States have already requested an imPACT mission for 2015 to support their fight against cancer.

In October 2014, the Advisory Group on Increasing Access to Radiotherapy Technology (AGaRT) met at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna. AGaRT is a platform that brings end users of radiotherapy machines from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America together with main manufacturers of radiotherapy equipment to explore innovative ways to provide affordable, sustainable and suitable radiotherapy solutions in low resource settings. AGaRT was established by PACT in 2009 with the technical support of the IAEA Division of Human Health and the IAEA Division of Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety.

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