

Atoms for Peace and Development: working towards the Sustainable Development Goals

By Yukiya Amano, Director General, IAEA

Technology and scientific innovation are essential for development. Nuclear applications offer enormous benefits in many areas of our lives, including health, agriculture, food production and energy generation, as well as in many sectors of industry. The IAEA is uniquely equipped to help Member States to use nuclear technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our Atoms for Peace and Development motto summarises our mission, which is to ensure that nuclear technology is used only for peaceful purposes and to help Member States use this remarkable technology to improve the well-being and prosperity of their people. Transferring nuclear technology to developing countries is core IAEA business and one of the most important areas of our work.

As IAEA Director General, I travel to many countries and meet people whose lives have been touched – and sometimes transformed – by the work of the Agency. These are very rewarding moments. This edition of the *IAEA Bulletin* features a selection of such stories.

You will learn of the rice farmers in Indonesia who have doubled their yield and income by growing a variety of rice, developed using radiation, which is resistant to some of the effects of climate change (page 4). You can read about how farmers in the Dominican Republic have been able to resume fruit and vegetable exports following the eradication of insect pests using nuclear techniques (page 6). Veterinarians in Lesotho tell us how they can,

for the first time, test animals for animal and zoonotic diseases and keep livestock – and people – healthy (page 8).

Another article illustrates how nuclear techniques have contributed to recovery efforts in Nepal, Ecuador and Peru following devastating natural disasters (page 20). We feature a small business in Malaysia which has become more competitive and can sell internationally because it has improved the quality of its products using radiation (page 24).

Many countries believe that nuclear power can help them meet the twin challenges of securing enough energy to develop their economies while combatting climate change. We focus on the IAEA's cooperation with Bangladesh, which began building its first nuclear power plant last year (page 22).

Membership of the IAEA has continued to expand and we now have 169 Member States. Requests for our assistance in all areas of nuclear science and applications are increasing steadily. The IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI) has been instrumental in helping us to supplement our technical cooperation resources to meet this growing demand. The PUI has also given us more flexibility in responding quickly to new challenges and helped us to form new partnerships with the private sector.

I hope you will enjoy reading about the many ways in which the IAEA works to improve the lives of people throughout the world through the use of peaceful nuclear technology.

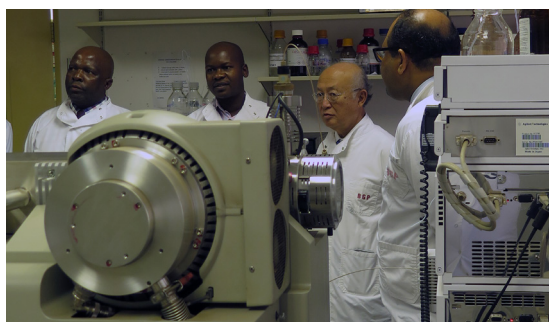


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— Yukiya Amano,
Director General, IAEA



(Photo: C. Brady/IAEA)



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(Photo: Bureau for Legal, Public Relations and Cooperation, Badan Tenaga Nuklir Nasional (BATAN))