

# Management of Technical Cooperation for Development

## Objective

*To contribute to sustainable social and economic benefits in Member States and their increased self-reliance in the application of nuclear techniques.*

## Country Programme Frameworks, UNDAFs and RSAs

Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) provide a comprehensive context for technical cooperation activities at the national level. In 2011, 14 CPFs were signed.<sup>1</sup> In addition, the Agency continued to strengthen alignment with the development activities of the United Nations at all levels, and participated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process in 81 Member States. As of the end of 2011, the Agency had signed 24 UNDAFs in total.

By year end, a total of 117 Member States had signed a Revised Supplementary Agreement Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA (RSA).

## Managing the Technical Cooperation Programme

The third and final year of the 2009–2011 technical cooperation programme cycle ended. Three new off-cycle core projects were initiated, as were three Reserve Fund projects. During the course of the year, 244 projects were closed, of which one was cancelled. Active projects at the end of 2011 totalled 681, with an additional 80 in the process of being closed. Member State priorities, as reflected in programme disbursements, were the nuclear fuel cycle, human health and nuclear safety, with some variations in emphasis across regions.

<sup>1</sup> With Afghanistan, Algeria, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Slovenia, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania and Vietnam.

## Financial highlights

Pledges against the 2011 Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) totalled €62.9 million (not including national participation costs (NPCs) and assessed programme costs (APCs)), against the target of €70 434 000, with the rate of attainment on payments at the end of 2011 standing at 86.0%. The use of TCF resources resulted in an implementation rate of 73.9%.

## Improving the quality of the technical cooperation programme

A systematic project quality review framework was developed to measure the quality of projects submitted for the 2012–2013 technical cooperation

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programme cycle. Lessons learned and areas for improvement were identified for further improvements to following cycles.

The Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF) IT platform was adapted to support the streamlined project design process for the 2012–2013 cycle. As a result, more detailed project design information was collected and the new Field of Activity Code structure was implemented.

## Monitoring and evaluating technical cooperation projects

A strategy to improve the monitoring of technical cooperation projects was prepared in 2011. The strategy identifies tools to be applied by stakeholders to enhance the implementation of projects. These include the Periodic Progress Reporting (PPR) mechanism — a mandatory monitoring tool for technical cooperation projects — and a self-evaluation methodology.

The format of project progress reports was revised following a review and consultation with counterparts and National Liaison Officers (NLOs). The new format will be used for future project progress reporting and closure.

At a meeting in August in Vienna, a self-evaluation guide for technical cooperation projects was drafted. The methodology and tools support the conduct of thorough assessments of outputs and of the progress made in achieving expected project outcomes. They can also be utilized to compile lessons learned.

### *Best practices in project design and management*

The Agency developed a best practices methodology for programme and project management for sharing with stakeholders. The methodology will be validated with Member State NLOs and counterparts, after which it will be made available to stakeholders.

### **Coordination with the United Nations and Other International Organizations**

The Agency contributed to several global development reports, including two reports by the United Nations, a report by the OECD for the

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Steering Group on Governance of International Cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation for Global Challenges, and various reports related to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as regional human development reports on food security (Africa) and climate change (Asia-Pacific). For the 2012–2013 programme cycle, three projects on nuclear technologies for cleaner industrial production were developed with UNIDO.

Water resources management remains a high priority issue in the African region. Given the transboundary nature of groundwater management, an integrated, regional approach is essential. An important regional focus over the past two years, in collaboration with the UNDP-GEF, was support to the integrated management of the Nubian Aquifer. Significant progress was made under a technical cooperation project, including the development of a strategic framework for the future management of the aquifer and a review of the existing legal framework for use of this shared water resource. In addition, a three dimensional model simulating the Nubian Aquifer’s response to significant drawdown and other related parameters was developed. The model test runs did not reveal any immediate and significant transboundary effects. However, Chad, Egypt and Sudan — the Member States involved — are now reviewing and adapting the models to suit national needs.

A project by the Joint Authority for the Study and Development of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System to develop a regional legal framework continued to receive the support of the Agency, UNESCO, UNDP and national counterparts within the Nubian Aquifer catchment area until its completion in 2011. An advocacy document has been completed, and efforts are under way to have this formally endorsed by the Nubian Aquifer countries (Chad, Egypt, Libya and Sudan).

In the Asia-Pacific region, cooperation with UNDP through the RCA Regional Office in the Republic of Korea resulted in an extrabudgetary contribution from UNDP of \$300 000 to implement an RCA project on single photon emission computed tomography/positron emission tomography imaging technologies in the region.

The Agency collaborated with several United Nations agencies and international partners in supporting the countries in Europe affected by uranium production legacy sites. The main contribution was related to risk assessment and planning of countermeasures to reduce existing exposure and to minimize environmental risk.

In the Latin American region, new joint activities were developed with the Pan American Health Organization to improve quality in medical applications, strengthen the regulatory capabilities of Ministries of Health in the region and increase the use of nuclear applications in medicine. The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission provided \$375 000 in support of regional regulatory authorities.

At the global level, cooperation with intergovernmental organizations continued in the area of nuclear safety, supported by the European Union's contribution of €2.3 million. A further agreement signed in 2011 is currently financing five technical cooperation projects.

## Regional Agreements and Programming

Regional agreements and other Member State groups promote 'horizontal' cooperation and further self-reliance and sustainability. Agency collaboration with these groups led to stronger regional technical cooperation programmes that are focused on priorities identified at the regional level.

In 2011, the Agency supported follow-up actions to the AFRA High Level Policy Review Seminar. The emphasis was on implementation of the AFRA Regional Strategic Cooperative Framework (RCF), the AFRA strategy on human resource development and nuclear knowledge management, the operational functioning of the AFRA Fund and the implementation of AFRA's strategy for partnership development and resource mobilization.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the RCA adopted its strategic priorities for 2012–2017, focusing on four thematic areas: agriculture, environment, human health and industry. RCA members also agreed to the Fifth Extension of the RCA Agreement, effective June 2012, a date which also marks the RCA's 40th anniversary.

The Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA) also

adopted a strategic profile and is working on the designation of regional resource centres within the ARASIA Member States.

In the European region, a major effort was put into strengthening regional cooperation in line with the strategy for technical cooperation in the region adopted in 2010. The strategy was used in designing

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a focused regional programme for 2012–2013 that addresses Member State priorities identified in the Europe Regional Profile (medium term plan for 2009–2013).

In the Latin American region, a process to update the Regional Strategic Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean was initiated by ARCAL, with the objective of strengthening the strategic focus for the region and achieving closer harmonization with Agency goals and the objectives reflected in the *Medium Term Strategy 2012–2017*. In preparing the new technical cooperation programme, emphasis was placed on promoting technical networks as a means of sustaining the collaboration achieved so far and ensuring that continuous outcomes are realized after the conclusion of the projects.



FIG. 1. Technical cooperation exhibition at the Agency's 55th General Conference in September.

## Outreach and Communication

Outreach to the international development community was strengthened by Secretariat participation in the UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (in May 2011), and the conference on The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus – Solutions for the Green Economy (in

*“The Agency also expanded its use of social media, using Twitter and Flickr, and a wide range of new outreach and exhibition materials was produced.”*

November 2011), as well as meetings and working groups related to food security. The Agency’s work in this area was presented to raise awareness among potential partners of the technical cooperation programme and to build understanding of the contribution of nuclear science and technology.

The Secretariat provided several briefings to Member States in 2011 on preparations for the 2012–2013 technical cooperation programme cycle. A second ‘Seminar on Technical Cooperation’,

designed to provide Permanent Missions with a comprehensive overview of the technical cooperation programme, was held in October 2011.

Outreach to the general public continued to make extensive use of the Agency’s web site (<http://www.iaea.org>). In addition, extensive radio coverage, photo essays and video material were arranged. A photo exhibition on water issues and on Agency projects were organized in support of the theme of the Scientific Forum at the General Conference (Fig. 1).

## Programme Cycle Management Framework and TC-PRIDE

The Agency’s TC Project Information Dissemination Environment (TC-PRIDE) web site has existed in its present form since 1998, and the technology used to develop the site is now obsolete. In tandem with the deployment of a new enterprise resource planning system, the Agency-wide Information System for Programme Support, TC-PRIDE functions are now being incorporated into the existing PCMF IT platform. The merger of sites will provide, in one web site, a consolidated view of technical cooperation projects from concept submission through to project closure, including historic data. The first phase of migration allows the retrieval of monthly reports on



FIG. 2. Screen shot of the InTouch communication page.

Table 1. Submission of nominations to the Agency in 2011 through InTouch

	Fellowships	Meetings	Scientific visits	Training courses	Grand total
Africa	20	21	16	36	93
Asia-Pacific	54	20	41	9	124
Europe	12	19	1	21	53
Latin America	81	249	38	266	634
Total	167	309	96	332	904

Table 2. Submission of profiles for expert/lecturer assignments to the Agency in 2011 through InTouch

Africa	41
Asia-Pacific	52
Europe	113
Latin America	59
North America	26
Total	291

the financial status of ongoing technical cooperation projects by country and by project.

## InTouch

InTouch (<http://intouch.iaea.org>), an interactive on-line communication platform was piloted in 2010 and began full operation in 2011 (Fig. 2).

Nine hundred and four nominations for fellowships, meetings, scientific visits and training courses were submitted through InTouch last year, and 291 expert and lecturer profiles were added. The highest number of nominations was received from the Latin American region, while the largest number of expert profiles was submitted from the European region (Tables 1 and 2).

## Legislative Assistance

During 2011, the Agency continued to provide legislative assistance through the technical cooperation programme in response to requests from Member States. Country specific bilateral legislative assistance was provided to 20 Member States, mainly through written comments and advice on drafting national nuclear legislation. At the request of Member States, the Agency also organized short term scientific visits to Headquarters for a number of individuals, enabling them to gain further practical experience in nuclear law.

The Agency continued to contribute to academic activities organized at the World Nuclear University

and the International School of Nuclear Law by providing lecturers and funding participants through appropriate technical cooperation projects. In particular, the Agency organized the first annual session of the Nuclear Law Institute in Vienna from 19 November to 3 December 2011. This comprehensive two week course was established to

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meet the increasing demand for legislative assistance by Member States, as well as to enable participants to acquire an understanding of all aspects of nuclear law and to draft, amend or review national nuclear legislation. A total of 84 representatives from 61 Member States participated in the course.

The first IAEA ‘Treaty Event’ was organized by the Secretariat on the sidelines of the 55th regular session of the General Conference. The event was designed to promote the universal adoption of international treaties related to nuclear safety, security and liability for nuclear damage for which the Director General is depositary.