

Management of Technical Cooperation for Development

Objective

To enhance the use of nuclear technology for sustainable development and social and economic benefits in Member States.

The Agency's technical cooperation programme builds capacities in Member States that support the use of nuclear technologies to address development priorities in human health, food and agriculture, water and the environment, and industry, thereby helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The programme also helps Member States to identify and meet future energy needs, and to improve nuclear safety and security worldwide.

Country Programme Frameworks and Revised Supplementary Agreements

Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) provide a comprehensive context for technical cooperation activities at the national level. In 2012, 18 CPFs were signed (Albania, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Latvia, Lesotho, Libya, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Peru, Republic of Moldova and South Africa).¹

As of 31 January 2013, a total of 121 Member States had signed a Revised Supplementary Agreement Concerning the Provision of Technical Assistance by the IAEA (RSA).

Managing the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme

In the first year of the 2012–2013 technical cooperation cycle, 686 new core projects were approved and three Programme Reserve projects were implemented. During the course of the year, 417 projects were closed, of which seven were cancelled. Active projects at the end of 2012 totalled 894, with an additional 145 in the process of being closed. Member State priorities, as reflected in programme disbursements, were human health, safety and security, and food and agriculture, with some variations in emphasis across regions.

¹ Total CPF signatures are calculated according to the year in which the Member State signs the document.

Financial highlights

Pledges against the 2012 Technical Cooperation Fund (TCF) totalled €55.6 million (not including national participation costs (NPCs) and assessed programme costs (APCs)), against the target of €62.3 million, with the rate of attainment on payments at the end of 2012 standing at 88.3%. The use of these resources resulted in a TCF implementation rate of 76.5%.

Improving the quality of the technical cooperation programme

The Agency emphasizes continuous improvement in the quality of the technical cooperation programme, and a systematic review process has been adopted to measure the quality of projects and their compliance

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with programme criteria. A quality review of project concepts submitted for the 2014–2015 programme cycle was conducted in 2012, and lessons learned and areas for improvement were identified. Member States were informed of necessary improvements through regular feedback.

An e-learning course for technical cooperation stakeholders on the 'logical framework approach' planning methodology was developed in 2012 and launched in early 2013.

Monitoring and evaluating technical cooperation projects

A strategy to improve the monitoring of projects, prepared in 2011, was put into practice in 2012. Project monitoring and evaluation tools for stakeholders were piloted, with the aim of enhancing project implementation. Following internal review and consultation with counterparts and National Liaison

Officers, the Project Progress Assessment Report format was revised, and the new format will be used for future project progress reporting and closure.

Collecting best practices in technical cooperation project design and management

For the first time, best practices in project management were collected and validated, according to a methodology developed in 2012. The specific mechanism created will be used to foster the collection and sharing of best practices between all stakeholders (<http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/programme/Quality/Best-Practices/index.html>).

Coordination with the United Nations and Other International Organizations

Partnerships with various United Nations and other international organizations were extended throughout 2012. The Agency worked with UNIDO on cleaner industrial production processes and energy planning; with FAO regarding closer country level cooperation; with UNICEF and WHO in the field of nutrition; and with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies and the Global Soil Partnership regarding the fight against desertification, land degradation and drought. It also collaborated with WHO and PAHO in the areas of cancer, medical physics, non-communicable diseases and nutrition.

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The Agency’s involvement in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the strategic programme framework that describes the collective response of the UN system to national development priorities, continued to increase. As of December 2012, the Agency was participating actively in 95 UNDAF processes and had signed a total of 29 UNDAFs.

Contributions were also made to several global development reports, initiatives and discussions in 2012, including to ongoing discussions on the

post-2015 UN Development Agenda, the Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council, the Global Technology Facilitation Mechanism as requested by the Rio+20 outcome document, the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, the UN Secretary-General’s report on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the report of the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on UN system support to such countries.

In Africa, a partnership with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) seeks to mobilize resources for African Member States for cancer control. In September 2012, the Agency, IDB and OIC jointly organized a high level seminar in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, for the African Member States of the IDB and the Agency. The seminar prepared a set of recommendations and adopted a roadmap to guide follow-up actions, including the preparation of project documents for consideration by the IDB and other donors.

The Member States of the Sahel region developed a draft project proposal in consultation with the Agency entitled ‘Integrated and Sustainable Management of Shared Aquifer Systems and Basins of the Sahel Region’. The project, approved by the Board of Governors at its session in June 2012, aims to support the sustainable management of shared groundwater resources in the region that will contribute to socioeconomic development (Fig. 1). Japan, Sweden and the USA have provided extrabudgetary contributions through the Peaceful Uses Initiative.

In the Asia and the Pacific region, cooperation with regard to the Synchrotron-light for Experimental



FIG. 1. Studying rainwater infiltration rates for artificial recharge of groundwater tables in Moroccan aquifers.

Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME), ongoing since the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2006, continued to be supported by a technical cooperation project. The SESAME centre, set up under the auspices of UNESCO on the model of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) with training provided through a technical cooperation project, aims to improve basic and applied research in medicine, the environment and technology in the Middle East. It will be the region's first major international research centre and is expected to facilitate North–South and South–South cooperation.

In Europe, close cooperation was maintained with UNDP Resident Coordinator Offices in relevant Member States, and with UN Country Teams. The Agency participated in the 'One UN' process through the UN Europe and Central Asia Regional Coordination Mechanisms, and in the UNDAF process. Cooperation with other UN agencies within the framework of specific projects continued in areas addressing the problem of uranium production legacy sites, and improving health care.

The implementation of projects in Latin America was coordinated with international and regional organizations operating in the region, in particular the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, on designing and implementing systems for early warning and evaluation of the toxicity of harmful algal blooms, and the Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura to help achieve regional objectives for food security. The Agency continued to work closely with UN organizations at both the national and regional levels, and with PAHO in the area of human health. For example, the Agency is following the preparation of the 2014–2018 UNDAF for Cuba, and has participated in a strategic prioritization workshop with 12 UN organizations to identify the comparative advantages of the UN system for effectively contributing to national priorities, and to analyse possibilities for establishing partnerships with key stakeholders. The Agency seeks to leverage partnerships with the specialized agencies of the UN system to strengthen adaptation and innovation in science and technology for food production, with FAO, and with UNEP and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, on coastal zone management.

At the global level, significant efforts were made to reach out to and deepen engagement with the European Union (EU). Various high level visits were conducted and close cooperation was established with the UN Brussels Team as a means to advance the Agency's

message to the various EU institutions. Cooperation between the EU and the Agency is well established in the fields of nuclear and radiation safety, nuclear security and safeguards. The cooperation between the European Commission and the Agency, for example, has focused on several areas of nuclear safety, such as capacity building, waste management, environmental remediation and strengthening regulatory authorities.

Regional Agreements and Programming

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

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In 2012, AFRA continued to be the primary mechanism for technical cooperation among developing countries in Africa and for enhancing regional cooperation among States Parties. Following the final assessment of the AFRA Regional Strategic Cooperative Framework for 2008–2013, a new Regional Strategic Framework document covering the period 2014–2018 was developed and endorsed by AFRA States Parties during the 23rd Meeting of Representatives in September 2012. The framework defines and prioritizes areas of regional cooperation for the sustainable and peaceful application of nuclear technology, and defines the AFRA strategy for resource mobilization and partnership building with relevant organizations and partners. AFRA also participated in the Second Conference of States Parties to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (the Pelindaba Treaty), which took place in November 2012 at the African Union Commission.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA) promotes and coordinates activities for training, research, development and applications of nuclear science and technology

(Fig. 2). In 2012, ARASIA adopted a new mechanism further promoting the principle of shared commitments and responsibilities, through which the ARASIA Chairmanship and ARASIA Secretariat rotate among the States Parties every four years. In its regional annual meeting in March 2012 in Beirut, ARASIA formed a working group to review the Guidelines and Operating Rules against the document establishing the Agreement and other ARASIA documents, such as the Medium Term Strategy and the ARASIA Programme Profile, in order to improve the management of the Agreement and to ensure effective development and delivery of the ARASIA programme.

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RCA celebrated the 40th anniversary of its founding. Various events were organized at both the national and regional levels, including exhibitions in Beijing and Vienna, and a panel discussion during the IAEA’s 56th General Conference. RCA has continued its efforts to improve the quality and effectiveness of the programme. A Project Monitoring Committee for RCA Programme Development was established to monitor and report on progress. RCA mechanisms were recognized as examples of ‘best practice’ in the first Agency’s Technical Cooperation Best Practice awards in January 2013. The Fifth RCA Extension Agreement entered into force in June 2012 for a further five years.



FIG. 2. Supporting improved crop productivity through induced mutations in ARASIA countries.

In the Europe region, a major effort is continuing to strengthen regional cooperation in line with the strategy for technical cooperation in the region adopted in 2010. The strategy is being applied to design a focused regional programme for 2014–2015 that addresses Member State priorities identified in the Europe Regional Profile (the medium term plan for 2009–2013, updated for 2014–2018). Member States in the region played the lead role in the development of both national and regional technical cooperation programmes, working with the Secretariat to ensure high quality concepts and project designs, and supporting continuous dialogue with all project stakeholders, in line with the logical framework approach.

In Latin America, a review of the 2007–2013 Regional Strategic Profile for Latin America and the Caribbean was initiated in 2012, in close collaboration with ARCAL. A planning and coordination working group and six thematic working groups have been established to assess future regional priorities in the areas of human health, environment, food security, energy, industry and radiation safety. The assessment results will establish the basis for the new Regional Strategic Profile. Special importance will be placed on establishing strategic objectives and defining smart performance indicators to monitor progress as well as the impact of future regional projects. A regional project was set up to strengthen communication and partnerships in ARCAL countries to enhance nuclear applications and sustainability. The project is expected to establish mechanisms and procedures to increase the visibility of the projects developed within the ARCAL framework and implemented under the technical cooperation programme. In particular, a strategic communication plan and guidelines for strategic partnerships will be drafted, and an integrated information management system for ARCAL will be put in place.

Outreach and Communication

Agency outreach to the international development community was strengthened through participation in several global conferences, including Rio+20, the World Water Forum, the Soil Symposium and the European Development Days. During these events, the Agency’s work was presented to raise awareness of the technical cooperation programme among potential partners, and to build understanding of the contribution of nuclear science and technology to development.

Agency exhibitions, with complementary flyers and postcards, were organized at the World Water Forum, Rio+20, the 56th IAEA General Conference and the Global South–South Development Expo, and an event

on science and development was also held at the General Conference. Exhibitions focusing on technical cooperation activities were also organized for World Cancer Day, World Water Day, the NPT PrepCom, the General Conference, Africa Industrialization Day, and on the occasion of the meeting of the Technical Assistance and Cooperation Committee.

A third Seminar on Technical Cooperation, designed to provide Permanent Missions with a comprehensive overview of the programme, was held in October 2012.

Regarding web outreach and social media, the Agency's technical cooperation web site was relaunched in February 2012. The new site garnered 11 079 visits and 7307 unique visitors in the period February–April 2012, and now has around 1000 visitors a week. Over 60 new web highlights were posted during the course of the year. More than 300 tweets were sent out from the @IAEATC Twitter account, which now has 1200 followers.

Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF) and TCPRIDE

The PCMF IT platform was enhanced in 2012 to include improvements to the programme cycle development process. This included changes to both the concept and design workflows to include enhanced quality checks with feedback to Member States. The PCMF has also been adjusted to align budget calculations with the approach of the Regular Budget 'Oracle Hyperion Planning' tool implemented as part of the Agency-wide Information System for Programme Support.

The initial phase of the incorporation of the TC Project Information Dissemination Environment (TCPRIDE) web site in the PCMF IT platform was completed in 2012. Further enhancements were initiated, including capacity for Member State work plan monitoring and a search function for unfunded footnote-a/ items, in line with a General Conference resolution on secured, searchable current and unfunded footnote-a/ items.

Legislative Assistance

In 2012, the Agency continued to provide legislative assistance to its Member States within the technical cooperation programme. Country specific bilateral legislative assistance was provided to 18 Member States. The Agency also organized short term scientific visits to Headquarters for a number of

individuals, allowing fellows to gain further practical experience in nuclear law.

The second session of the Nuclear Law Institute was organized in Baden, Austria, in September–October. The comprehensive two week course was established to meet the increasing demand by Member States for legislative assistance and to enable participants to acquire an understanding of all aspects of nuclear law, as well as to draft, amend or review their national nuclear legislation. A total of 60 representatives from 51 Member States participated. The Agency also continued to contribute to the activities organized at the World Nuclear University and the International School of Nuclear Law by organizing lectures and funding participants through appropriate technical cooperation projects.

A Workshop for Diplomats on Nuclear Law was organized in July 2012 to provide Member State representatives with a broad understanding of all aspects of nuclear law. The workshop was attended by 87 participants from 51 Member States.

The Agency is also enhancing outreach activities through the development of new on-line training material.

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The second treaty event organized by the Secretariat took place during the 56th regular session of the General Conference, and provided Member States with a further opportunity to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval of, or accession to, the treaties deposited with the Director General. These include, notably, those related to nuclear safety, nuclear security and liability for nuclear damage.

In order to raise the awareness of national policy makers about the importance of adhering to relevant international legal instruments adopted under its auspices, the Agency organizes 'awareness missions' to Member States, the latest of which took place in Ghana in October 2012.