

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.

The Agency's technical cooperation programme works to build human and institutional capacities in Member States so that they can respond to local needs and address global issues through the safe utilization of nuclear technologies.

The programme focuses on: improving health care (Fig. 1); supporting agricultural production and food security; advancing water resources management; addressing environmental challenges; and supporting sustainable energy development, including the use of nuclear power for electricity generation. It also goes beyond these development priorities to address transboundary issues for the global good, such as the promotion of safety and security, and building capacities in Member States that ensure that nuclear technology is used in a manner consistent with the highest standards of safety. The programme contributes to the achievement of several of the Millennium Development Goals.

Managing the Agency's Technical Cooperation Programme

In 2010, the Agency completed the second year of its current technical cooperation cycle. Nine new out of cycle national projects were initiated at the start of the year. During the course of the year, 384 completed projects were closed. Active projects at the end of 2010 totalled 890, with an additional 210 in the process of being closed. Member State priorities, reflected in the thematic distribution of the programme, were human health, food and agriculture, and safety related issues.

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Country Programme Frameworks and UNDAFs

The development of Country Programme Frameworks (CPFs) is a key component of strategic



FIG. 1. Technical cooperation projects around the world are helping to create a new corps of trained professionals who are already on the frontline of the fight against cancer.

pre-planning work for the technical cooperation programme cycle, as it provides a context for technical cooperation activities at the national level. The Agency continued to strengthen alignment with development activities of the United Nations at all levels, and to this end continued to participate in the development of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). As of the end of 2010, 14 UNDAFs had been signed, and technical cooperation country officers (Programme Management Officers (PMOs)) were engaged in a further 48 UNDAF processes. Internal briefing papers on linkages between CPFs and national UNDAFs were prepared for 75 Member States. Preparatory work of this nature helps to: ensure that the application of nuclear techniques is integrated with existing development initiatives and plans; identify areas where such techniques might be usefully deployed; and recognize potential areas for cooperation with external partners.

Preparations for the 2012–2013 Programme Cycle

Activities in preparation for the 2012–2013 technical cooperation programme cycle focused on the identification of national development priorities as well as on cohesive country planning and results based programming, laying the foundations for effective monitoring, self-assessment and independent evaluation. All Member States received the *Guidelines for the Planning and Design of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme*. These guidelines are intended to assist stakeholders in the planning and

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design process for the programme, and to ensure consistently high quality in all project documents and throughout the entire technical cooperation programme. For the first time, each Member State was asked to submit a Country Programme Note (CPN) rather than a set of individual project concepts. A CPN provides a unified overview of the planned national programme and contains information regarding the consultation process

and the identification of priorities, as well as an outline of the status of the national safety regulatory infrastructure. It also contains the country’s proposed project concepts, ordered according to priority. The CPN allows a Member State to define its priorities in an integrated manner and supports a more strategic and cohesive country programme that is aligned with national development needs and with the technical support offered by the Agency. In all, 117 CPNs were received, containing 807 national project concepts. In addition, 280 regional and 28 interregional project concepts were submitted in the form of consolidated programme notes.

Programme Cycle Management Framework

The technical cooperation programme planning and design process was reviewed and improved to shift emphasis from the project level to the programme level. The new Country, Regional and Interregional Programme Notes support this methodology. This holistic approach to programme planning is expected to lead to a more interconnected, strategic technical cooperation programme.

Review criteria to ensure the quality of programme and project design were further developed and incorporated into the Programme Cycle Management Framework (PCMF) IT platform in support of the preparations for the 2012–2013 programme cycle.

Interdepartmental Coordination

The technical cooperation Fields of Activity (FoAs), which are used to mark the thematic focus of proposed projects and to identify the technical support required for project implementation, were reviewed over the course of 2010. The number of FoAs was reduced from 131 to 30, ensuring a more streamlined Agency response to the needs of Member States. The new fields are being used in the development of the 2012–2013 programme. They are available on the PCMF IT platform.

InTouch

The first phase of ‘InTouch’ (<http://intouch.iaea.org>), an interactive on-line communication platform for the technical cooperation community, was piloted in 2010. InTouch currently allows registered users to complete and maintain their professional profile on-line, and to apply for a fellowship, scientific visit, training course or meeting, or for expert/lecturer

assignments. It also offers an on-line history of the participation of registered users in the technical cooperation programme. In addition, InTouch features a database of institutions offering training and expertise, as well as programme information and guidelines.

Integration with AIPS

As the development, implementation and monitoring of the technical cooperation programme relies heavily on a suite of specialized IT tools, considerable energy was expended in 2010 on ensuring smooth implementation of the Agency-wide Information System for Programme Support (AIPS). Particular attention was paid to interactive processes with Member States in the design and implementation of the technical cooperation programme.

Coordination with International Organizations

The Agency cooperated with the countries affected by the consequences of the legacy of uranium production sites in Central Asia, and with several United Nations agencies and international partners. The focus of these activities was on designing and implementing appropriate countermeasures aimed at improving the existing exposure situation and reducing the associated environmental risk. It also cooperated with Kazakhstan in the completion of the radiological characterization of the Semipalatinsk Test Site to provide the national authorities with comprehensive information to support decision making.

Technical and management leadership is being fostered in Latin America by promoting bilateral cooperation agreements and increasing support for the management structure of the regional Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL).

In Africa, efforts continued to strengthen the partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) in connection with the Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign (PATTEC) Coordination Office, and to enhance institutional collaboration and synergies with the AUC Department of Peace and Security following entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty on 15 July 2009. The AUC intends to seek active advisory support from the Agency to operationalize the African Commission on Nuclear Energy (ACNE) established by the Treaty,

and to facilitate future collaboration between ACNE and the African Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA).

Regional Agreements and Programming

Regional agreements with Member State groups promote horizontal cooperation and further the goals of self-reliance and sustainability. Collaboration with these groups has led to stronger regional programmes, focused on priorities identified at the regional level, and ensured balance and complementarity between national and regional programmes.

In 2010, the Agency supported follow-up actions to the AFRA High Level Policy Review Seminar. The emphasis is on implementation of the AFRA Regional Strategic Cooperative Framework (RCF), the AFRA strategy on human resource development and nuclear knowledge management, and on AFRA funding and partnership development.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Medium Term Strategy of the Regional Co-operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology (RCA) was updated and a strategic profile adopted that identifies priorities

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for 2012–2017. The Co-operative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA) is developing its own strategic profile. A regional cooperative framework for Agency technical cooperation activities in Asia and the Pacific was developed. The framework identifies potential areas and opportunities for regional cooperation, as well as the means and modalities for concrete implementation and knowledge sharing.

In Europe, Member States adopted a strategy in February 2010 for the technical cooperation programme in the region. This strengthens the alignment of the programme with Agency policy, programmatic quality criteria and regional cooperation, and promotes triangular cooperation in the region.

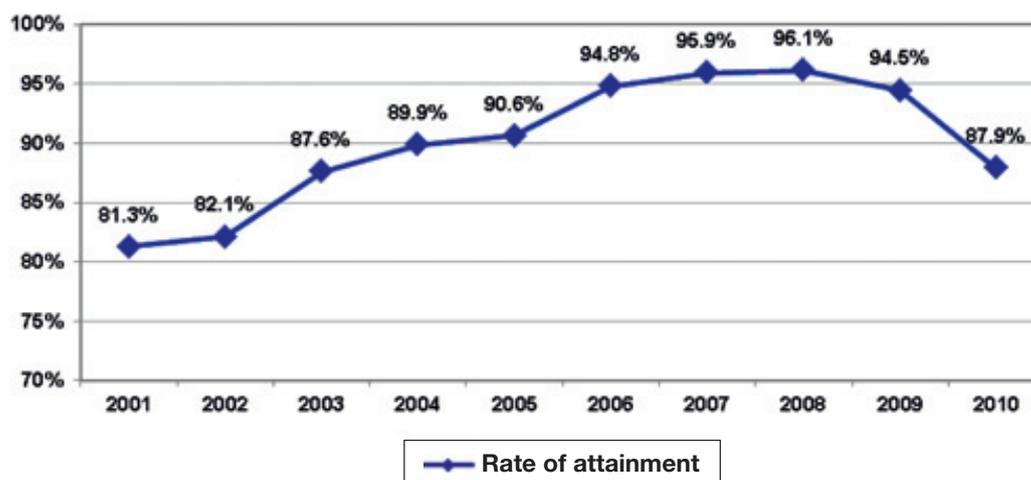


FIG. 2. Rate of attainment on payments to the TCF, 2001–2010, as of 31 December 2010.

In Latin America, the number of designated centres supporting the implementation of the ARCAL programme increased from 33 to 35. Activities in the region are focused on ARCAL initiatives such as a communications platform and implementation of the Strategic Alliance Plan of Action.

Outreach and Communication

The Secretariat's outreach activities in 2010 focused on a series of informal meetings and briefings for Member States. For example, a seminar on technical cooperation activities provided Permanent Missions with a comprehensive overview of the programme. The Agency also extended its outreach activities by establishing a Twitter presence and highlighting technical cooperation activities on its Facebook page. YouTube was used to share short training videos on the PCMF in English, French and Spanish with National Liaison Officers.

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Financial Highlights

Pledges for the TCF totalled \$78.4 million (not including national participation costs (NPCs) and assessed programme costs (APCs)) against the target of \$85 million, with the rate of attainment at the end of 2010 at 92.3%. Payments against the 2010 TCF

target at the end of 2010 totalled \$74.7 million, with a rate of attainment (on payments) of 87.9% (Fig. 2). The difference between pledges and payments (\$3.7 million) is mainly due to the receipt of 2010 TCF contributions in early January 2011. The use of these resources resulted in an implementation rate of 73.9%.

For the programme as a whole (including extrabudgetary contributions, NPCs, APCs, in-kind contributions and miscellaneous income), new resources stood at \$127.6 million. Implementation in 2010, measured against the adjusted programme, for the TCF and extrabudgetary part, reached a rate of 76.6%.

Legislative Assistance

Through its technical cooperation programme, the Agency continued to provide legislative assistance in response to requests from Member States. In particular, four international and regional workshops were organized. Additionally, the Agency provided country specific bilateral legislative assistance — essentially by means of written comments and advice on drafting national nuclear legislation — to 26 Member States.

At the request of Member States, the Agency organized short term scientific visits to Headquarters for a number of individuals. In addition, longer term fellowships were granted, allowing individuals to gain practical experience in nuclear law.

The Agency continued to take part in academic activities organized at the World Nuclear University and the International School of Nuclear Law through the provision of lecturers and the funding of participants through appropriate technical cooperation projects.