



IAEA

International Atomic Energy Agency

Atoms for Peace

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Improving radiation protection capacity in Nigeria

The challenge...

Nigeria's Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act of 1995 calls for an adequate number of radiation protection officers, both in the organizations using nuclear technology and at the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA). However, the country suffered from an acute shortage of radiation protection, waste safety and management officers. A sustainable national training programme that would ensure the regular and sustainable availability of qualified specialists was needed in order to build a strong national foundation for basic radiation sciences.



The project...

An IAEA technical cooperation project was carried out in collaboration with the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority and the University of Ibadan to increase Nigeria's radiation protection, waste safety and management capacities. Through the project, expert support was provided in education, training and nuclear knowledge management. Advice was provided regarding the introduction of a Master of Science and a postgraduate diploma programme in radiation protection, with particular emphasis on accreditation, delivery of lectures, curriculum, books and materials and laboratory layout. A 'train the trainer' programme was also delivered through the project. Fellowships and scientific visits on occupational exposure control and on regulatory infrastructure for radiation and waste safety and radiation metrology and dosimetry were supported. Equipment for training and for the provision of services in occupational dosimetry was also delivered through the project.

The impact...

- Higher education programmes and teaching bodies for radiation protection in Nigeria were improved. Safer operational, scientific and technical support for nuclear facilities was established. A sustainable national centre for postgraduate education in radiation and waste safety was also established.
- Specialists were trained in radiation and waste safety and related fields. Nigeria's capabilities in radiation protection services were developed, and a radiation protection and dosimetry laboratory was established with government cost sharing.
- As a result of the project, the radiation protection and safety of workers, the general public and the environment were improved. Enhanced medical exposure and radioactive waste disposal management practices were integrated into the regulatory regime, thus building public confidence in the peaceful application of nuclear energy.

Technical cooperation project NIR/0/006: Establishment of a National Postgraduate Training Centre in Radiation Protection