



A Look Back **Highlights from the IAEA** **58th General Conference**

22 to 26 September 2014



Over 3000 participants gathered at the IAEA headquarters from 22 to 26 September 2014 for the IAEA's 58th General Conference (GC).

The five-day event brought together high-level government representatives and other participants from the IAEA's 162 Member States as well as international organizations, the media and non-governmental organizations.

During the conference, the IAEA's programme and activities were considered and the Agency's budget for the coming year was approved. Each year, General Conference participants are also able to choose from and attend side events held throughout the week.



“The impact of our work in the daily lives of millions of people around the world is extraordinary.”

— IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano remarked during his speech to hundreds of delegates during the GC opening session.



GC Side Events Highlighting Radiation Medicine and Technology

23 September 2014

Reducing Unnecessary Exposure to Radiation in Medicine: Side Event Promotes AAA Approach to Patient Radiation Protection and Safety

To reduce the risk of harmful doses of ionizing radiation being given to patients, experts have come up with the AAA (awareness, appropriateness, audit) approach that, if used, will significantly reduce the numbers of radiological procedures done each year and ensure that those procedures that are carried out are in patients' best interests.



(Photo: S. Henriques/IAEA)

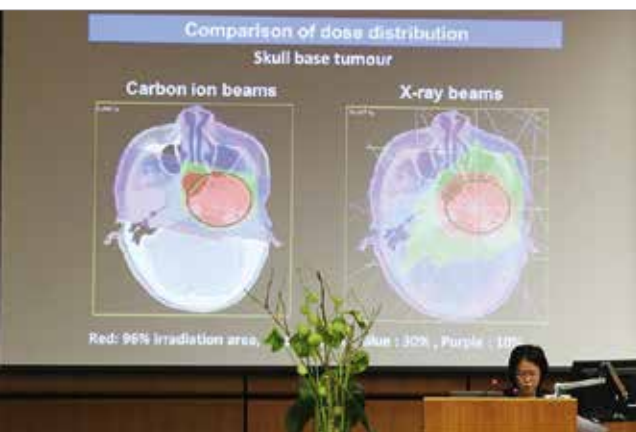
25 September 2014



(Photo: O. Yusuf/IAEA)

Transcontinental Training: The IAEA Launches its Distance Assisted Training Online Platform — DATOL

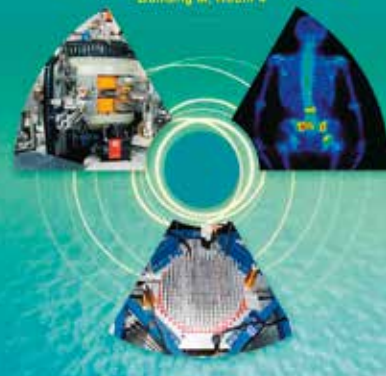
The Distance Assisted Training Online (DATOL) programme through the IAEA Human Health Campus was launched during a side event at the GC. This IAEA-developed resource provides educational materials intended for nuclear medicine professionals in order to address skill gaps and facilitate the development of the knowledge and skills necessary for conducting high-quality studies and delivering safe and appropriate medical services.



The IAEA Hosts Event on Particle Radiotherapy for Improved Cancer Treatment

A new radiotherapy approach using charged particles (protons or carbon ions) delivered to a tumour has the potential to offer improved control over tumour growth and requires lower doses of radiation during cancer treatment. Particle Radiotherapy for Cancer: Biology and Technology was the topic of a side event held during the GC.

(Photo: N.Jawerth/IAEA)



Averting a Medical Radioisotope Shortage: Supply Challenges, Crisis Mitigation Efforts and Alternatives to Medical Radioisotope Molybdenum-99

An impending shortage of a key radioisotope will have an adverse impact on medical nuclear imaging diagnostics unless alternative methods or substitutes are found.

Molybdenum-99 is typically produced in research reactors. It is the parent isotope of technetium-99m, which is a widely used isotope in nuclear medicine. The current state of molybdenum-99 production and potential crisis mitigation options were the topics of three presentations held during the GC side event called Medical Radioisotope Molybdenum-99: Supply Challenges, Crisis Mitigation Efforts and Alternatives.

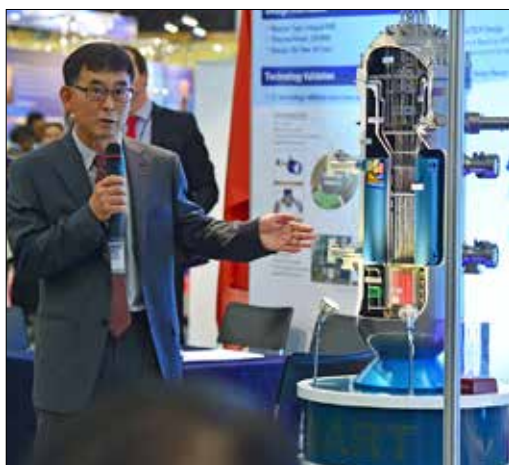


(Photos: C. Hofliena/IAEA)

Touching Lives: Building Partnerships to Fight Cancer

Discussions during the Building Partnerships to Fight Cancer side event focused on strategic partnerships to fight the cancer epidemic in low and middle income countries and called for more to be done to combat one of the most menacing threats to global health. Nelly Enwerem-Bromson, Director of the IAEA Division of Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy and moderator of the event, emphasized that a proactive, strategic and sustained global action to address and invest in the future for cancer control and treatment is critical to saving lives.

In addition to side events related to radiation medicine and technology, dozens of exhibits and side events scheduled throughout the week underlined activities and special programmes being implemented by key departments of the IAEA Secretariat and several Member States.



Closing Day, 26 September 2014



During the Closing Sessions of the General Conference, delegates from IAEA Member States had an opportunity to vote on various topics related to the IAEA, such as resolutions aimed at strengthening the IAEA's work in many areas including nuclear science and technology, safety, security, safeguards and technical cooperation.



Many delegates are eager to participate in the decisions being considered and the important voting process. After lively voting and debate, the General Conference concluded late in the evening on 26 September 2014.

The 59th General Conference will be held next year from 14 to 18 September 2015.

**Text compilation: Nicole Jawerth, IAEA Office of Public Information and Communication
Photos (unless otherwise noted): D. Calma/IAEA**