

Atoms for peace and development: contributing to global progress through nuclear science and technology

By Yukiya Amano, Director General, IAEA

Cultivating new crop varieties, reducing soil erosion and helping African countries respond to Ebola Virus Disease are just some of the areas in which the IAEA helps Member States to benefit from nuclear technology. Assisting countries in the safe and secure use of nuclear techniques for development is as important to the IAEA as its non-proliferation work. For many developing countries, it is the most important thing we do.

Our mandate has been summarized as *Atoms for Peace*. Today, I feel that our mandate could be better understood as *Atoms for Peace and Development*.

This is a milestone year for global development as the international community takes stock of the progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and finalizing the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. World leaders have called for an ambitious post-2015 agenda that provides a long-term plan to improve people's lives and to protect the planet for future generations.

Science and technology are critical for development. They need to be recognized as an important enabler of the post-2015 development agenda. Nuclear science and technology, in particular, have an enormous contribution to make. The IAEA plays a unique role in making nuclear science and technology available to improve the lives of people everywhere. I have been working hard to improve recognition of the important role played by the IAEA in this area.

One of the most gratifying aspects of my work as IAEA Director General is meeting people whose lives have been changed for the better by our work. In this booklet, we

illustrate the impact of the IAEA's work through 16 examples spanning the wide range of our activities.

You will read of the farmer in Mauritius who can now grow high-quality cash crops, the Senegalese cattle herder whose cows are healthier than ever before, the Guatemalan health official who can now diagnose malnutrition and recommend treatment to children at an early age, and the Romanian priest who saved the beautiful iconostasis of his church from being destroyed by insects. All of these were made possible through the application of nuclear science and technology to everyday problems.

The IAEA also provides support to activities related to nuclear power programmes. We assist Member States which are considering adding nuclear power to their energy mix so that they can use it efficiently, safely and securely. Our work in this area is illustrated by stories on sustainable uranium mining in Tanzania, nuclear power infrastructure development in Turkey, the safe handling of radioactive waste in Morocco, and increased nuclear security through the conversion of a research reactor in Kazakhstan.

Membership of the IAEA continues to grow and demand for our services in all areas of nuclear sciences and applications is increasing steadily. The IAEA Peaceful Uses Initiative has been an effective mechanism in raising additional resources for the IAEA to meet this growing demand. I hope to be able to continue with this valuable initiative in the future.

I trust that you will find that this booklet provides a valuable insight into the very special work of this unique organization.



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