Update on Transport Safety Networks in the Asia Pacific Region

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IAEA’s Regional TC Project
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• The International Atomic Energy Agency embarked on a Regional Technical Cooperation (TC) Project (RAS 9/067) for Asia and the Pacific in 2012

• **Objective**: To strengthen an effective compliance assurance regime for transport safety of radioactive material in the Asia and Pacific Region

• **Activities**:
  – Under the project, 22 events including training courses, workshops, and meetings were conducted in the Region.
  – A total of 333 representatives from 39 countries participated
Participating States

- Member States from the Middle East, South East Asia and South Pacific Islands

- Non-Member States: Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu
Where we started: 2012

- Some countries had a well-defined nuclear legislation and transport regulations.
- Many countries did not have specific transport regulations; only import-export control.
- Many countries did not have basic nuclear legislation.
- Some countries did not have a source inventory.
- Most of the countries party to the IAEA *Code of Conduct for the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources*.
- All countries required support for conducting training programmes on specific topics.
Gaps and Strengths of Member States

• Self-Assessment identified *weaknesses* / *strengths* of each MS

• Accordingly *National Action Plans* were developed by each MS to close the gaps addressing each of the 12 areas of the compliance assurance programme.

• Some States in the region were *strong in some areas* while others had *some gaps in the same areas* and *vice versa*.

• Ideally a *Regional Action Plan* should close *all gaps*!
Progress made up to May 2014

- Seven **priority** areas identified for **immediate action**
- **States strong in certain areas were requested** to offer assistance to States who need help in those areas
- Mutual cooperation among the States in the region is ideal solution
- **Matrix of mutual support** developed
- In some areas **all States required** support from the Agency
The seven PRIORITY areas identified for immediate action

Priority areas for by Country specific action plans:

1. Regulatory Review and Maintenance of Legal Framework
2. Non-compliance investigations and enforcement actions
3. Monitoring and inspections of transport operations
4. Emergency response planning and preparation
5. Training and distribution of information
6. International/National liaison and cooperation
7. Design assessment
Workshop Details

• The workshops generally covered:
  – Benefits of Radioactive Material
  – International Regulations
  – Basic Regulatory Controls
  – Transport Package Types
  – Documentation and Labeling for Packages
  – Emergency Response
  – Denial of Shipment
  – Self Assessments
  – Revisions of the Regional and National Action Plans
Practical Discussions
Exercises on Applying the Regulations
Response Exercises
Drafting transport safety regulations - Vienna, April 2016

- Workshop on Drafting of Transport Regulations
  - Objective was to develop transport regulations for each Member State
  - Many participants successfully drafted transport regulations under the enabling provisions of their respective national laws
  - Participants were encouraged to present these draft regulations to their respective governments so that they may be duly promulgated
  - Experts from Australia and India assisted the participants in their drafting
Final project Meeting, October 2016

- Hosted by Office of Atoms for Peace in Bangkok, Thailand
- Largest meeting to date with 34 participants
- Recognized achievements of individual countries participating in the project
- Outcomes:
  - Formalization of the Pacific Islands Network with appointment of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
  - Further definition of the Asian regional network, to include representatives from 2 “sub-regions”
The next moves to the logical end of the project...

- **To sustain the progress achieved** the participants would need to –
  
  - *Pursue* with promulgation of *transport regulations*
  
  - *Maintain regional network* and interact with national points of contact
  
  - *Participate in IAEA Technical Meetings* (e.g. TRANSSC) and in the *revision of IAEA Safety Standards*
  
  - Seek *necessary support* from IAEA (workshops/missions)
In conclusion...

- Many States initiated work on transport regulations
- Priority areas -
  - almost **fully** met in 5 States;
  - **partially** met in 10 States; and
  - not met but **actions undertaken** (the other States)
- To enhance capabilities in **other five areas** of compliance assurance continued Agency support is required
- IAEA can help in sharing the expertise among all the **regional networks on transport safety** established under the project.
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Questions?

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Thank you.