International Conference on the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material:

2020 A Vision for Transport Safety

IAEA Headquarters
Vienna, Austria

29 June–3 July 2020

Announcement

A. Background

The outcomes form this conference in 2020 will be inform future planning of the Agency’s work from 2021 onwards, sixty years after the issue of the IAEA’s first Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Materials in 1961.

The transport of radioactive material continues to be an expanding worldwide activity involving the movement of products that are essential and necessary for public health, manufacturing, science, and engineering. This continues to provide three challenges to Member States that are at the early stages of developing their safety infrastructures namely; to implement national laws and transport safety regulations for the transport of radioactive material based on the requirements of the IAEA Regulations for the Safe Transport of Radioactive Material SSR-6 (Rev.1) 2018 Edition; to create a competent authority that has legally delegated or invested powers to issue authorisations and perform compliance monitoring of compliance with the aforementioned national laws and regulations; to develop the competences of the competent authority to achieve a sustained delivery of effective regulatory oversight.
B. Purpose and Objective

The purpose of the conference is to provide Member States who are developing their transport safety infrastructures, to discuss on a regional level, their needs and capabilities to contribute to regulatory oversight activities at a national level and through collaboration at a regional level as agreed by the Member States involved.

The objective of the conference is to encourage application of appropriate levels of safety during transport by:

- Promoting international discussion on the safety of radioactive material transport;
- Identifying and sharing best practices;
- Identifying issues and problems;
- Identifying opportunities such as, providing assistance to support national adoption of a comprehensive and appropriate transport safety framework;
- Developing ideas for coordinating and enhancing transport safety at national and regional levels.

C. Structure, Themes and Topics

The conference programme will consist of plenary sessions with invited papers from experts and developing Member States from each region, and two days dedicated to regional working groups of Member States with each working group reporting the outcomes of the discussions to plenary for discussion. Regional working groups are scheduled to meet on the Day 2 and Day 4 of conference week with each held in English, French or Spanish language as appropriate and feature a facilitator with time to prepare presentations for plenary. Each region will report back to plenary in English, the outcomes of their discussions to inform future planning for capacity building in the regions. The outline programme for the week is:

Day 1: Background briefing sessions on the fundamentals of the global infrastructure for transport safety and presentations by several IAEA Departments, ICAO, IMO and UNECE;

Day 2: Five regional working groups will meet to discuss ‘Member States Ambitions for the use of radioactive material in Country’, to determine what improvements are needed in their safety infrastructures and what can be approached on a regional basis.

Day 3: Five regional working groups will each present the outcome of their Day 2 regional working groups followed by a plenary discussion.

One Member State from each region will be contacted by the Secretariat and invited to make a plenary presentation entitled ‘Cooperation / Collaboration – National and International Networks’.

One Member State from each region will be contacted by the Secretariat and invited to make a plenary presentation entitled ‘Land Border Crossing - Issues and Proposed Solutions’.
Day 4: Five regional working groups will meet to discuss ‘What changes in Member States and Agency approaches would improve the effectiveness of Member State capacity building programmes’ for Transport safety. Each working group will report back to plenary for discussion.

Day 5: Five regional working groups will meet to discuss ‘Current status in Member States and where do you want to be in five years – How do you plan to get there’. Each working group will report back to plenary for discussion.

At the closing session, regional working group chairpersons will present their summaries and the President of the Conference will present the Conference findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Consistent with the objectives set out above, the overall themes for the conference will be:

- Clarification of the roles of responsibilities of various IAEA Divisions, ICAO, IMO and UNECE organisations in the context of transporting radioactive material
- Examples of issues and solutions for domestic and international transports, including transit;
- Improving the effectiveness of Member State capacity building programmes for transport safety infrastructures
- Strengthening regional networks; and
- Information security and the need for transparency.

The conference is not intended to cover the technical topics covered in the PATRAM conference (package design and analysis).

D. Target Audience

The conference is aimed at participants with responsibility for policy, technical and legal aspects of nuclear safety. This includes officials, policymakers and operational stakeholders responsible for nuclear safety and experts and representatives from a wide range of technical disciplines and specialist organizations that contribute to the safety of radioactive material during transport including TSOs, law enforcement and border control agencies.

It is expected that the participants in the conference will also include industry and civil society representatives, including from non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

The IAEA welcomes and encourages the participation of women and early career professionals, and individuals from developing countries.

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1 Packaging and Transportation of Radioactive Materials Symposium.
The target audience includes:

- Policy and decision makers within national governments (the people who can make decisions and the people who can ensure the feasibility of decisions);
- National transport safety regulators and industry representatives (users, consignors and carriers);
- Technical support organizations;
- Customs; and
- International, regional, modal, industry and stakeholder organizations.

E. Participation and Registration

All persons wishing to participate in the conference need to be designated by an IAEA Member State or should be members of organizations that have been invited to attend.

In order to be designated by an IAEA Member State, participants are requested to send the following form(s) (as applicable) to their competent national authority (e.g. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Permanent Mission to the IAEA or National Atomic Energy Authority):

- Participation Form (Form A): participation only; no deadline if only Form A is submitted.
- Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B): participants submitting a paper through INDICO must send the completed and signed Form B together with Form A to their competent national authority for onward transmission to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org) by 31 January 2020.
- Grant Application Form (Form C): participants requesting financial support from the IAEA, have to complete Form C and send it together with Form A (and Form B, if applicable) to the competent national authority for onward transmission to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org) by 29 February 2020. Form C must be stamped and signed by the competent national authority.

Participants who are members of an organization invited to attend are requested to send the above form(s) through their organization to the IAEA (Official.Mail@iaea.org).

Participants who registered in accordance with the above procedure will receive from the IAEA further information approximately three months before the opening of the conference.

Please note that the IAEA manages the entire registration process for all regular programme meetings electronically through the new InTouch+ (https://intouchplus.iaea.org) facility, which is the improved and expanded successor to the InTouch platform that has been used in recent years for the IAEA’s technical cooperation events. Through InTouch+, prospective participants will be able to apply for meetings and submit all required documents online. National authorities will be able to use InTouch+ to review and approve these applications. Interested parties that would like to use this new facility should write to: InTouchPlus.Contact-Point@iaea.org.
F. Contributed papers

F.1. Contributed papers

A limited number of contributed papers may complement the invited papers in the regional working groups by providing additional information and perspectives. Concise papers may be submitted presenting the perspective of a Member State or an international organization (or recognized trade association) on their experience of implementing (including developing and complying with) safety and security frameworks based on IAEA safety and security recommendations. It is intended that the papers selected will be made available through the Agency Conference App.

F.2. Regional working groups

The aim of the regional working groups is to encourage authorities that have yet to establish safety and security regulatory frameworks to learn from the experience of other authorities within their region which have been through a similar process.

The working groups will be facilitated and held in English (Africa, Asia Pacific Islands, MedNet), French (Africa) and Spanish (Latin America). Member States will be encouraged to contribute to the discussion topic. One or more Member States in the region that has an established safety regulatory regime, or is in the process of establishing one, can share information on the process undertaken, the technical advice and technical assistance required, and the support that was received. Presentations will be followed by panel discussions with a discussion facilitator and presenters. The panel discussion will explore ways in which the countries within the region can individually and collectively implement an effective safety framework. The facilitator is tasked to encourage contributions from all participants in the regional working groups during panel sessions. The reports of the working group leaders will be presented to the conference’s plenary and taken forward into the President’s Final Report.

F.3. Deadline for submission of invited abstracts

Invited abstracts of intended contributed papers are required to reach the IAEA by 31 January 2020. Abstracts should be sent directly by email to transport.meetings@iaea.org. In addition to the electronic submission, a hard copy of the abstract must also be submitted through one of the competent official authorities (see Section H), together with a completed Form for Submission of a Paper (Form B) and the Participation Form (Form A), to reach the IAEA also by 31 January 2020. The abstracts should not exceed a half page A4 format of single-spaced typing (approximately 150 words). The abstract must be in English and provide sufficient information on the contents of the proposed paper to enable the programme committee’s evaluation. Introductory and general matters should not be included.

Authors will be informed whether their papers have been accepted at the 28 February 2020. The IAEA, however, reserves the right to refuse the presentation or publication of any paper that does not meet the expectations based on the information given in the abstract.

F.4. Deadline for contributed papers

Contributed papers based on those abstracts accepted are required to reach the IAEA by 30 April 2020. Instructions for the preparation and submission of contributed papers will be available on INDICO.
G. Distribution of Documents

The proceedings will be published by the IAEA as soon as possible after the conference. It will include the president’s report, invited papers, contributed papers and copies of presentations.

A preliminary programme of the conference will be available at the conference web site before the conference. The final programme will be available through the conference app in the week preceding the conference.

H. Expenditures and Grants

No registration fee will be charged to participants.

The IAEA is generally not in a position to bear the travel and other costs of participants in the conference. The IAEA has, however, limited funds at its disposal to help meet the cost of attendance of certain participants. Such assistance may be offered upon specific request to normally one participant per country provided that, in the IAEA’s view, the participant on whose behalf assistance is requested will make an important contribution to the conference.

If participants wish to apply for a grant, they should submit applications to the IAEA to this effect through their competent national authority. Participants should ensure that applications for grants are:

1. Submitted through the competent national authority by **31 December 2019**;
2. Accompanied by a completed and signed Grant Application Form (Form C); and
3. Accompanied by a completed Participation Form (Form A).

Applications that do not comply with the above conditions cannot be considered.

Approved grants will be issued in the form of a lump sum payment that usually **covers only part of the cost of attendance**.

I. Working Language

The working language of the conference will be English with working group discussion in English, French and Spanish as appropriate for the region. All communications, synopses, abstracts and papers must be sent to the IAEA in English. No interpretation will be provided during the conference.

J. Conference Venue and Accommodation

The conference will be held at the IAEA’s Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. Participants must make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. Hotels which are offering a reduced rate for conference participants will be listed on the conference web page (see Section O). Please note that the
IAEA is not in a position to assist participants with hotel bookings, nor can the IAEA assume responsibility for paying cancellation fees or for re-bookings and no shows.

Detailed information on accommodation and other relevant matters will be made available on the conference web page as soon as possible.

K. Visas

Designated participants who require a visa to enter Austria should submit the necessary application to the nearest diplomatic or consular representative of Austria at least eight weeks before they travel to Austria. Designated participants will be required to submit a letter of invitation in support of their visa application.

L. Key Dates and Deadlines

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of Form for Submission of invited Paper (Form B) (together with Form A) through the competent national authority</td>
<td>31 January 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of Grant Application Form C (together with Form A) through the competent national authority or through InTouch+</td>
<td>31 January 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notification of acceptance of invited Paper abstracts</td>
<td>28 February 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for submission of invited papers through IAEA-INDICO</td>
<td>30 April 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registration only (no paper submission, no grant request)</td>
<td>No deadline</td>
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M. Conference Secretariat

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Subsequent correspondence on scientific matters should be sent to the Scientific Secretary of the conference and correspondence on administrative matters to the IAEA Conference Services Section.

**N. O. Conference Web Page**

Please visit the following web page regularly for new information regarding this conference: xxxx