

Regional Workshops on Denials of Shipment of Radioactive Material

Following a successful Workshop on the same subject for the Latin America region, held in Montevideo, Uruguay in July 2007, and in response to GC(51)/RES/11, Part B, p.14, the IAEA will hold, in 2008, a series of such events for Africa and Asia, as well as for countries of the Mediterranean Basin.

The purpose of the Workshops is to raise awareness of all parties concerned, i.e. suppliers, recipients, regulators, carriers/consignors and international organizations of the problems relating to denials of shipment of radioactive material with a view to determining effective measures to prevent or reduce the instances of denials in the countries of these broad geographical areas.

It is noted that in light of rapidly increasing application of radioactive sources, particularly in medical and industrial sectors, cases of denial of shipments are a reality of today, and are likely to increase in the coming years. It is further noted that carriers/consignors impose additional constraints and conditions on such shipments. The implications of such instances are manifold, resulting among other things, in hardships to patients and disruptions in construction projects or industrial development.

One of the outputs of the event in question will be an Action Plan, involving the parties concerned, and aimed at adopting a universally accepted approach to solving this problem.

The regional workshops are scheduled as follows:

1. Countries of the Mediterranean Basin:

Rome, Italy, 14-16 May 2008, hosted by the Government of Italy through the Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services (APAT).

2. Africa (English-speaking countries):

Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania (URT), 11-13 June 2008, hosted by the Government of the URT through the Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC).

3. Asia:

Beijing, China, 11-13 June 2008, hosted by the Government of China through the China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC).

4. Africa (French-speaking countries):

Antananarivo, Madagascar, 23-25 June, hosted by the Government of Madagascar through the *Institut national des sciences et techniques nucléaires* (INSTN).