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International Atomic Energy Agency

Agence internationale de l'énergie atomique

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National Liaison Officer

2016-05-23

Subject: Invitation to a Regional Seminar on Preparation of Waste Management Strategic Plans, Tbilisi, Georgia, 17-21 October 2016

Dear National Liaison Officer,

I am pleased to invite you to send nominations of suitable candidates to participate in the above-mentioned seminar under the framework of TC Project RER/9/143 – 'Enhancing Radioactive Waste Management Capabilities'. The purpose of the seminar and related information are outlined in the attached Prospectus.

For candidates who are selected by the IAEA, the IAEA will cover the cost of return international travel from the home country to Tbilisi, Georgia and provide Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the duration of the seminar in line with IAEA rules and procedures.

Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for seminar available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Mr Andrejs Salmins (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail Official.Mail@iaea.org), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than **25 August 2016**.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Krause

Director

Division for Europe

Department of Technical Cooperation

Enclosure: Prospectus

International Atomic Energy Agency

Regional Seminar on Preparation of Waste Management Strategic Plans

PROSPECTUS

- Project Number & Title:** RER9143 “Enhancing Radioactive Waste Management Capabilities”
- Place (City, Country):** Tbilisi, Georgia
- Dates:** 17- 21 October 2016
- Deadline for Nominations:** 25 August 2016
- Organizers:** The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in collaboration with the Government of Georgia through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
- Host Country Organizer:** Mr Vasil Gedevanishvili
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
Department of Nuclear and Radiation Safety
Tbilisi 0114
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- Language:** English
- Purpose:** The IAEA Regional Seminar on the *Preparation of Waste Management Strategic Plans* is orientated towards supporting Member States with small radioactive waste programmes and/or a relatively limited inventory of radioactive waste requiring end-point solutions. The range of countries targeted for attending the seminar includes those dealing with the management of disused sealed radioactive sources and other institutionally derived radioactive waste, including radioactive waste resulting from the operation of research reactors. The seminar will also be of value to participants from Member States currently operating one or a small number of commercial nuclear reactors for power generation, or envisaging such use in the coming decade (i.e. Newcomer Countries), including those considering the use of small and medium-sized reactors (SMRs). The objective of the seminar is to provide participants with an opportunity to discuss the various factors that drive national policy decisions and that influence and condition the detailed strategies that need to be developed to manage radioactive waste safely, securely and sustainably. In order to successfully achieve this objective, participants will learn about the various pre-disposal and disposal options that are available to Member States, together with their advantages and limitations, where appropriate for differing situations. These options

include multinational solutions and the potential for the use of recycling and reprocessing. As well as covering the technologies and safety requirements associated with strategic options, various management tools will be presented to participants, to allow them to identify strategic issues, to critically analyse information and to select preferred pathways for implementation from amongst a range of strategic alternatives.

Expected Output(s):

Based on participants' understanding derived from the structured presentations and directed discussions, to be led by industry experts and reflecting international experiences and best practices, participants will be encouraged to outline radioactive waste management strategies that could be appropriate for their own national circumstances. As a result of the seminar, the increased knowledge and the provision of a range of management tools will allow participants to strengthen the capacity and capability of Member States for managing radioactive waste management practices, both in relation to pre-disposal and disposal issues.

Scope and Nature:

The five-day Regional Seminar will include lectures and structured discussions that highlight safety requirements and illustrate best international practices and approaches to develop national strategies for radioactive waste management. The topics will be aligned to emphasise:

- The various factors to be considered by Member States in developing high-level radioactive waste management policies and their relevance to the overall goals for a nationally integrated nuclear programme, highlighting the importance of recognising at an early stage the challenges and issues to be addressed in radioactive waste management;
- The considerations to be factored into the development of a comprehensive and robust strategic plan for radioactive waste management and how this plan needs to be interlinked with wider strategically important considerations. In developing viable strategic plans, the various technologies and methods used in radioactive waste management, including waste characterisation, conditioning and disposal, will be presented;
- The various responsibilities of the different stakeholders involved in developing a national strategy for radioactive waste management, including national governments and regulatory bodies, waste generators, waste processors, storage facility operators and repository operators. An important aspect that will be addressed in the seminar will also relate to the significance of engaging with the public and other stakeholders. While not the focus of the seminar, the elements that need to be considered in developing a strategic plan for stakeholder engagement will also be covered;

The Seminar will include participant's presentations outlining experiences in their own Member State relating to the development of radioactive waste management programmes. These presentations will provide all participants with an appreciation of the range of challenges being faced, as well as their

similarities. The seminar will also include exercises to allow participants to put into practice the knowledge derived from the presentations and discussions.

Background Information:

Every country that uses nuclear technology involving radioactive materials generates radioactive waste. Such waste needs to be processed through segregation, treatment, conditioning and packaging to be either stored on an interim basis, disposed of or recycled/reprocessed. There is a recognised need to assist Member States in defining appropriate strategies to improve existing waste management practices in these areas and to assist in the resolution of particular or common problems for radioactive waste management, both pre-disposal and disposal.

The starting point for a successful waste management programme is the development of an appropriate national policy that can be enacted through comprehensive and enforceable regulations and through the development of viable strategies for implementation. The various stakeholders involved in the development of national policy and strategy and its implementation need to be aligned in their objectives throughout the lifecycle of radioactive waste, from generation to an end-point solution. Every country managing radioactive waste faces challenges and the seminar is orientated towards identifying these challenges, recognising the strategic choices available and supporting Member States to develop and implement their own strategic plans to reflect policy decisions.

Participation:

The target countries are: Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Uzbekistan. Although the Seminar is designed for countries participating in the Regional Project 9143 it provides an opportunity to engage potential participants from all other Member States with national projects devoted to radioactive waste management, decommissioning and environmental remediation, especially those with small programmes and/or relatively limited inventories, including Newcomer countries.

Participants' Qualifications:

Participants should be scientists, engineers and professionals engaged in the planning, management and operation of radioactive waste processing and storage facilities and those responsible for planning, managing or operating disposal facilities. The intended participants also include appropriately qualified and experienced professionals working in government and responsible for developing national policy and strategy. Participants will also be selected from individuals employed by regulatory or technical support organisations with responsibility for radioactive waste management. Please note that participants are expected to prepare presentations outlining their national experience of developing radioactive waste management programmes, highlighting especially recognised challenges and issues, as well as solutions.

**Nomination
Procedure:**

Please submit nominations to the IAEA online through the Technical Cooperation Department's InTouch system (<http://intouch.iaea.org>). Only if this is not possible, nominations may be submitted on the Nomination Form for Meeting/Workshop available on the IAEA website: <http://www.iaea.org/technicalcooperation/How-to-take-part/In-meetings-WS/index.html>. Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the Programme Management Officer for this project, Mr Andrejs Salmins (IAEA Official Fax: +43-1-26007 or E-Mail Official.Mail@iaea.org), through the official channels, i.e. the designated National Liaison Office for IAEA matters, not later than **25 August 2016**.

**Administrative
and Financial
Arrangements:**

Nominating Governments will be informed in due course of the names of the candidates who have been selected and will, at that time, be given full details of the procedures to be followed with regard to administrative and financial matters.

Selected participants from countries eligible to receive technical assistance will be provided with a round trip economy class air ticket from their home countries to Tbilisi, Georgia, and a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) at the prevailing UN Rate. Shipment of accumulated seminar materials to the participants' home countries is not the responsibility of the IAEA.

The organizers of the seminar do not accept liability for the payment of any cost or compensation that may arise from damage to or loss of personal property, or from illness, injury, disability or death of a participant while he/she is travelling to and from or attending the seminar, and it is clearly understood that each Government, in nominating participants, undertakes responsibility for such coverage. Governments would be well advised to take out insurance against these risks.