

Session 2.6

Supporting Radiation Safety for Occupational Exposure: Case of Nigeria

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The Problem

- Fallout from the Atomic tests in the Sahara Desert in the early 1960s
- Widespread use of ionizing radiation
- **Weak Safety Infrastructure:** Lack of appropriate legislation, lack of institutional framework, and inadequate human resources

The Solution

Government and IAEA Support: Scope/Nature

- Government support
 - Establishment of the Federal Radiation Protection Service in 1964
 - Promulgation of the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act in 1995
 - Provision of the counterpart funding for the MNSR project in 1998
 - Establishment of the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority in 2001
 - Annual budget appropriation for NNRA by law since 2002
- IAEA Contribution
 - **TC projects:** equipment, experts, fellowships and training courses
 - IAEA Missions: RAPAT, WAMAP, RaSSIA, IRRS
 - **The Model Project 1995-2004**
 - **The approval of the Miniature Neutron Source Reactor (MNSR) in 1995**



Achievements

- Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act in 1995
- Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority in 2001
- Promulgation of eleven regulations on radiation safety
- Establishment of the Nigerian Institute of Radiation Protection and Research in 2007
- Establishment of the Nigerian SSDs in 2007 and 2008
- The Postgraduate Program in Radiation Protection, in 2007
- Accreditation of three Dosimetry Service Providers (independent of NNRA)



The Way Forward

Nigeria

- Update of the National Register of Radiation Workers;
- Standardization of personal dosimetry service technology;
- Establishment of Quality Assurance programmes for dosimetry service providers;
- Update of National Register of Radiation Sources;
- Improve on documentation of the various regulatory activities
- Address the challenge of under-utilization of the LINACs

IAEA

- Strengthen the dialectic relationship between promotion and regulation for the sake of sustainable development;
- Strengthen regional cooperation between regulatory bodies;
- Establish inter-comparison programmes on radiation protection of workers, patients and the public
- Facilitate the establishment of regional/sub-regional maintenance workshops for LINACs



Expected Outcomes

- Establishment of National Dose Registry
- Improved quality of service in radiotherapy
- Sustainability of radiotherapy facilities in the country
- Increased access to cancer treatment in the country



THANK YOU

