Middle East Radiation Measurements Cross Calibration Workshops

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Rationale for Workshop

- All countries in the Middle East have various nuclear monitoring and measurement capabilities associated with nuclear power and research reactors, and with radioactive sources used in medicine, commerce, and industry.
- Detecting the presence of radioactive sources, preventing the illicit use of radiological materials, responding to accidental radiation releases, and disposing of radioactive sources safely are common concerns.

Objectives of Workshop

Sharing Improvements

Sharing Problems

Standardized Techniques

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- Mixed Analyte Performance Evaluation Program (MAPEP)
- Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Site Investigation Manual (MARSSIM)
- Multi-Agency Radiation Survey and Assessment of Materials and Equipment Manual (MARSAME)

RMCC Participants

Bahrain
Egypt
France
Germany
IAEA
Iraq
Jordan
Kuwait
Morocco
Oman
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Tunisia
United Arab Emerites
USA

In the Beginning

As a first step in 2005, the Cooperative Monitoring Center (CMC) of Sandia National Laboratories in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has helped initiate the Radiation Measurements Cross Calibration (RMCC) project to develop internationally recognized standards for laboratory radiation measurements, including radiochemistry techniques.

Annual Workshop Activities

Discuss results of activities undertaken since previous meetings, Identify areas where increased technical cooperation would be beneficial, and recommend future activities.

These practical workshops are designed to :
- encourage communication among the GCC radiolocial laboratories,
- develop internationally recognized laboratory standards, and
- provide training on relevant topics such as laboratory management, quality assurance, and gamma spectroscopy.

Workshop provides opportunities for the regional participants to exchange insights into the radiological measurement problems they face in their home countries and build up the regional capacity to address these issues.

Benefits of RMCC

- Increased confidence in data quality across the region,
- Availability of a network of qualified labs for radiological measurements, and
- Improved scientist-to-scientist communication.

The project will build up the capacity in the region to produce reliable radiological data and will provide a mechanism for sharing of agreed-upon information. This will enable scientists in the region to work cooperatively to create indigenous solutions to the problems. The effort builds confidence by encouraging technological transparency in the region and fosters the development of a network of scientific experts.

NNSA National Nuclear Security Administration

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