



Regional Cooperation for Peaceful Nuclear Energy

The UAE is the first country among Member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) to build a nuclear power plant. The Gulf States are uniquely positioned to cooperate on nuclear power, as they make up a geographic region with similar economic objectives and similar drivers for nuclear power. Among these are the growth in electricity and water demand, environmental concerns, the goal of reducing consumption of fossil fuels and others. The UAE believes that regional cooperation should be pursued because it has value for its Member States, both individually and collectively.

Common Ground on Nuclear Energy in the Region

In December 2006, all six Member States of the GCC announced that the Council began commissioning a study on peaceful nuclear energy for economic sustainability in the region. In February 2007, all GCC States agreed with the IAEA to cooperate on a feasibility study for a regional nuclear power and desalination programme. A strategy was endorsed in 2011 with a focus on infrastructure development and human resource development. The strategy calls for the establishment of working groups to promote cooperation in the areas of nuclear emergencies, training, regulatory framework and waste management.

Establishing a Regional Institute in the UAE for Nuclear Professionals

The growing interest in nuclear energy among Middle Eastern States calls for a sustainable, institutional and regional mechanism for responsible nuclear energy infrastructure development. In this regard, establishing and providing qualified human resources for the industry remains a vital issue and require an integrated approach. To support the establishment of a sustainable, institutional and regional mechanism for responsible nuclear energy infrastructure in the region, the UAE established a regional institute located at the Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research (KU) in Abu Dhabi. This regional programme, the Gulf Nuclear Energy Infrastructure Institute (GNEII), was established through the cooperation between the Government of the UAE and the Government of the United States on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Since its establishment, KU holds annual GNEII Symposiums at the Abu Dhabi Campus gathering nuclear-related experts from around the world, and particularly the Gulf region, to discuss issues of nuclear safety, safeguards and security and to hear presentations by GNEII fellows.



GNEII Symposium, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi Campus, 18–19 May 2014

“Consistent with its standing as an active participant in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the UAE will continue to participate in and lend its support to ongoing studies and initiatives on the peaceful use of nuclear energy taking place within the framework of the GCC.”

UAE Nuclear Policy

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About the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) was formed on 25 May 1981, by their Majesties and Highnesses, the leaders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at their meeting in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Leaders of the six States reached an agreement to establish a cooperative framework to strengthen coordination, integration and interconnection among the Member States of the Gulf in all fields in order to achieve unity, according to Article 4 of the GCC Charter.

Joint Regional Objectives

Under UAE leadership, the GCC conducted another joint study on potential cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The study identified a strategy which was endorsed in 2011, and identified key areas for potential cooperation:

- Legal Framework, Nuclear Liability and International Agreements
- Nuclear Regulation
- Plant Siting
- Training, R&D, Safety Culture and Human Resource Capacity Building
- Security of Fuel Supply
- Nuclear Waste Management
- Emergency Planning and Response - a regional plan for emergency preparedness

Regional Development through IAEA Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme

The GCC countries receive ongoing assistance and advice through the Agency's Technical Cooperation (TC) Programme. They obtain technical support on the use of appropriate nuclear science and technology to address major sustainable development priorities at the regional and interregional levels.

Major IAEA Regional TC Events Hosted in the UAE

- The UAE twice hosted the International Nuclear Energy Management (NEM) School, which brought together more than 70 nuclear professionals from many GCC countries, among other IAEA Member States. The joint UAE-IAEA NEM School was initiated to provide a unique, international educational experience aimed at building future leadership to manage nuclear energy programmes, and to promote and foster knowledge on a wide range of issues related to the peaceful use of nuclear technology. It is arranged to provide a unique worldwide networking opportunity for future managers in the area of nuclear energy. The UAE-IAEA NEM Schools were hosted by the Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research in 2012 and 2015 at its campus in Abu Dhabi.
- From 7-9 September 2014, the IAEA conducted a Regional Workshop on Elements of Cooperation in Radioactive Waste Management, with participation of GCC countries in Abu Dhabi. The workshop discussed regional cooperation in the area of waste management.
- The Regional Awareness Workshop on Nuclear Security for the Member States of the GCC, jointly organized by the IAEA, was held in Abu Dhabi from 17-19 July 2012. More than 50 participants from the UAE and Member States of the GCC met in the UAE to discuss ways to strengthen nuclear security and enhance partnerships.

As part of the IAEA TC programme, the UAE participates in several regional TC projects that focus on the GCC region. The country contributes to the progress and coordination of activities scheduled under these projects, as well as in the preparation of future TC regional projects. These projects are devoted to the advancement of regional priorities, in addition to providing support to ongoing national capacity strengthening efforts.



Regional Meeting to Review the Final GCC Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Preparedness Plan, IAEA Headquarters, 24-28 February 2014

Since 2012, the UAE is an active counterpart in the implementation of the GCC regional TC project with IAEA RAS2015 "Supporting the Introduction of Nuclear Power for Electricity Generation and Seawater Desalination." The country is actively engaged in related Working Groups and meetings, and hosts a number of regional activities. The project aims to enhance the capabilities of GCC Member States in addressing all issues related to the introduction of nuclear power for electricity generation and seawater desalination in the framework of a regional cooperation programme. The UAE also will take part in a new GCC project on "Strengthening and Harmonising Legislative & Regulatory Frameworks and Capabilities for Radiological and Nuclear Emergency Preparedness & Response, as well as Capacity Building in Connection with the Development of Nuclear Power in the GCC Region" for the period of 2016-2017.