



OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

NUCLEAR LAW INSTITUTE

The Nuclear Law Institute (NLI) was established by the IAEA in order to meet the increasing demand for legislative assistance by Member States. It is being implemented as a core activity within the IAEA Legislative Assistance Programme.

Every year, the NLI offers intensive training for up to sixty lawyers in all areas of nuclear law and in drafting corresponding national legislation.



Background

Nuclear energy may pose special risks to the health and safety of persons and to the environment. At the same time, nuclear energy holds significant benefits in a variety of fields – from medicine and agriculture to electricity production and industry. Its dual nature, combined with the complexity of nuclear science, explains why, from the earliest days of its development to its most modern uses, nuclear energy has been considered to require special legal arrangements, in order to ensure that it is used safely and securely and for peaceful purposes.

In light of the increasing number and complexity of the international instruments in the nuclear field, and in order to better meet the demand from Member States, the Office of Legal Affairs decided in 2011 to streamline its legislative assistance activities by establishing the NLI, in cooperation with the Department of Technical Cooperation (TC).

Following the positive feedback received with regard to the 2011 session, the Secretariat has decided to organize the NLI as an annual event.

Training objective

By the end of the training session, participants should have acquired a solid understanding of all aspects of international and national nuclear law and be able to draft, amend or review national nuclear legislation.

Teaching methodology

Drawing on modern teaching methods based on interaction and practice, the NLI provides a combination of ‘impulse’ lectures covering the fundamentals of nuclear law, facilitated **small group (so-called TOP) sessions** in which participants can relate the information delivered in the lectures to their own experience and objectives; and “hands-on” evaluation and drafting exercises.

In addition, **Special Sessions** allow participants to gain broader or in-depth knowledge of topics of specific interests.

An **Issue Forum**, at the end of the NLI, provides an opportunity for participants to present the results of the legislative drafting exercises prepared in small groups the assistance of facilitators during the NLI.

The learning process is complemented by printed and on-line material.

Programme

The NLI takes place over a two-week period and addresses the following aspects of nuclear law:

- Nuclear safety
- Nuclear security
- Safeguards and non-proliferation
- Nuclear liability and insurance.

In addition, specific subjects are addressed in the context of the Special Sessions and other sessions such as:

- Developing a national nuclear infrastructure in newcomer countries
- Relationships between environmental law and nuclear law
- Nuclear Trade
- Financial aspects of decommissioning
- Case Study: Legal framework for the management of transboundary nuclear risk.

Teaching staff

All lectures and presentations are delivered by well-known experts from the IAEA and other institutions.

Requirements

Participation in the NLI takes place within the framework of the relevant IAEA TC project. Participants are thus selected from among candidates nominated by Member States through the appropriate governmental channels. Applications submitted directly by candidates will not be considered.

Candidates should be legal experts or regulators employed by governments and relevant national agencies and involved in the drafting of nuclear related national legislation.

Candidates should have an excellent knowledge of English, including, as far as possible, legal terminology. Neither translation nor interpretation into any other language will be provided during the training session.

Application

Nominations for the NLI should be submitted online through the IAEA's In Touch+ system. In case this is not possible, nominations may also be submitted using the relevant nomination form.

Completed forms should be endorsed by relevant national authorities and sent to the IAEA through the official channels, i.e. the National Liaison Officer, by the designated deadline.

Further information may be found at: <https://www.iaea.org/ola/nli>.

Cost and funding

Participation in the training session itself is free of charge. The IAEA will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of participants as per IAEA rules and practices.

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