

DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY DIVISION OF RADIATION, TRANSPORT AND WASTE SAFETY



EDUCATION AND TRAINING APPRAISAL IN RADIATION PROTECTION AND THE SAFETY OF RADIATION SOURCES

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

16 to 23 February 2017

APPRAISAL TEAM - PARTICIPANTS

Appraisal Team

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List of Participants

Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR)

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National Qualification Authority (NQA)

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BACKGROUND

H.E. Ambassador Hamad Alkaabi, Resident Representative of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the IAEA, sent to the Director of the IAEA Division for Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety a request for an Education and Training Appraisal (EduTA) mission on 30 June 2015.

After some preliminary contacts between the UAE counterpart and the IAEA contact point for the mission, it was agreed to conduct a preparatory mission, held on 29-31 August 2016. The objectives of the preparatory mission were: to provide an overview on the scope and objective of the EduTA; to explain how to complete the questionnaire providing the appropriate supporting documents; to draft with the national counterpart the agenda for the full mission; to provide advice on the establishment of the national strategy for education and training in radiation, transport and waste safety.

Following the preparatory mission, the questionnaire was sent out to FANR with the request to fill out the core modules (Modules A on the legal and regulatory framework for education and training, Module B on the national strategy for education and training). Module C, intended to be filled out by organizations conducting the Postgraduate Educational Course in radiation protection and the safety of radiation sources (PGEC) under the auspices of the IAEA, was not considered as part of the appraisal mission.

The questionnaire with the supporting documents was sent back to the IAEA contact point for preliminary assessment prior to the mission being carried out. After consultation with the other members of the EduTA appraisal team, the IAEA contact point provided the UAE counterpart with guidance and suggestions on how to amend the provided information in order to properly address some of the questions. Before the mission, a new completed questionnaire, with additional supporting documents, was sent back to the IAEA contact point.

The EduTA mission was conducted on 16-23 February 2017 under the IAEA Technical Cooperation project RAS/9/081 "Providing Education and Training in Radiation Safety in the Asia-Pacific Region".

OBJECTIVES AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EduTA MISSION

The general objectives of the EduTA are:

- To carry out a detailed appraisal of the status of the provisions for education and training in radiation protection and the safety of radiation sources;
- To identify areas in education and training, where the provisions should be improved to meet (i) the IAEA safety standards, (ii) the national education and training needs;
- To provide the host Member State with recommendations and suggestions for improvement;
- To provide key staff in the host Member State with an opportunity to discuss the legislative framework and the national policy and strategy in the field, with the EduTA team members who have experience in the issues at stake;
- To promote the IAEA Standards and Guides relevant to the scope of the appraisal.

In this framework, the terms of reference of this appraisal mission were:

- To review and revise, together with the counterpart, the information provided in Module A and B of the EduTA questionnaire on the legal and regulatory framework for education and training in radiation protection and safety, and the national strategy for education and training, respectively;
- To provide an opportunity to continuously improve the provisions and overall infrastructures for education and training in radiation protection and safety.

CONDUCT OF THE MISSION

The opening session of the mission took place at the premises of Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) on the first day of the mission. The EduTA team was welcomed by Mr Christer Viktorsson, FANR Director General, Mr Ian Grant, FANR Deputy Director General of Operations, Ms Aayda Al Shehhi, FANR Director of Radiation Safety Department, In addition to senior FANR staff, the opening meeting was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Prevention, UAE University, Emirates Nuclear Energy Cooperation, National Qualification Authority, Zayed University, National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority, Federal Customs Authority, Higher Colleges of Technology – Abu Dhabi Men's College, Haward Technology Middle East and Abu Dhabi Health Authority.

Mr. Ian Grant and Ms Aayda Al Shehhi presented an "Overview on UAE Regulatory Framework". The EduTA team leader presented the scope and objectives of the mission, the procedure for conducting the mission and the general structure and content of the modules of the questionnaire. Preliminary discussions were held between UAE counterparts and the EduTA team on the conduction of the mission and the agreed programme.

After the presentations, and during the week, the information provided to the EduTA team by the UAE counterpart prior to the mission was discussed in detail, clarification on aspects of the questionnaire was provided and additional information was requested where necessary. Numerous documents were provided to the team.

In accordance with the mission programme, the EduTA team also visited several organizations and institutions relevant to the scope of the mission:

- Haward Technology Middle East (HTME, Training Service Provider), Abu Dhabi;
- Dubai Health Authority (DHA), Dubai;
- Rashid Hospital, Dubai;
- Sharjah University;
- National Qualification Authority (NQA), Abu Dhabi;
- National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA), Abu Dhabi.

Several presentations were also provided by the representatives of the visited organizations and institutions:

- "Haward Technology Company Profile", by Ms Yana Spichak, General Manager, Haward Technology Middle East;
- "IAEA Education and Training Appraisal mission (EduTA) to the United Arab Emirates", by Ms Jamila AlSuwaidi, DHA Radiation Protection Committee Chair and Projects Counterpart:
- "Educational Activities in Nuclear Medicine Department Dubai Hospital- Dubai Health Authority", by Mr Batool Albalooshi, Consultant and Head of Nuclear Medicine Department, President of Emirates Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging;
- "Rashid Hospital Education Program", by Ms Laila Musabeh Mohad Almuhairi, Specialist Radiographer, Rashid Hospital;
- "Radiation safety educational program", by Ms Bindu Subrahmanian Potty, Senior Radiographer and Radiation Protection Officer, Latifa Hospital;
- "Radiation Protection Education Program in Primary Health Care Centres", by Mr Seyed Mehdi Saidian, Senior Radiographer and Radiation Protection Officer, DHA;
- "Introduction to the national qualifications authority", by Ms Wafa Saleh Al Awlaqi, National Qualification Authority (NQA).

On the last day, an exit meeting was held with the UAE officials at the FANR premises. The EduTA team leader presented a brief outcome of the assessment. Conclusions, recommendations and suggestions were agreed with the counterpart.